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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-183
Wednesday
21 September 1988

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-88-183* *21 September 1988*

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## 21 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2109130088 [Editorial Report]

### Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil flew to Damascus 21 September and began talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio announced. A related Voice of Lebanon radio report stated Al-Asad has also "summoned" a number of other Lebanese personalities to the Syrian capital, including the Syrian-backed presidential candidate Mikha'il al-Dahir.

Lebanese Army Commander General Michel 'Awn had warned earlier that the Lebanese Army will fill any "institutional vacuum" that may occur if a new president is not elected by 23 September, Beirut radio reported. Speaking to Kuwait's AL-ANBA', he added the Army is ready to enter into conflict with all parties that oppose its action.

Lebanese Forces (LF) Commander Samir Ja'ja' dismissed as "humbug" U.S. warnings that rejection of Al-Dahir's candidacy will spell disaster for the country, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Ja'ja' also said the LF prefer Raymond Iddih to the candidates suggested by Syria and called for the presidential election to be held in the Al-Mansur Palace, not in Al-Najmah Square.

A similar call for the location of the election to be changed to Al-Mansur Palace was made in a statement issued by 27 Christian deputies after a meeting with bishops at the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki.

The statement, broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, demanded that "effective measures" be taken to hold the election in an atmosphere of security, freedom, and democracy.

The statement from Bkirki was sharply denounced by PSP leader Walid Junblatt, who told a news conference in Damascus that Maronite Patriarch Butrus Sfayr's "blatant intervention" in politics is exposing all the Christians to danger, according to the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Junblatt also warned that rejection of Al-Dahir's candidacy will result in the establishment of two governments in Lebanon.

A related Radio Monte Carlo report from Damascus noted that at least 10 Lebanese deputies were participating in talks in the Syrian capital 20 September.

### Iran

**New Ministers**—The Majlis approved five of the six new ministerial candidates submitted by the prime minister, IRNA reported, noting that the highest level of support was obtained by 'Ali Shamkhani, the new IRGC minister, who obtained 202 votes.

The Majlis also approved the ministers of agriculture, education, construction jihad, and energy, but rejected Majid Hedayatzadeh's nomination as commerce minister.

An IRNA report on the backgrounds of the new ministers noted that Shamkhani rose to the rank of IRGC deputy commander during the war and was then appointed as a senior aide to 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Military Command Headquarters.

The new construction jihad minister was one of the students who took over the U.S. Embassy in 1979, while the ministers of agriculture and education both received higher degrees in U.S. universities.

**USSR Relations**—A visiting Soviet economic official told Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi that the USSR is ready to cooperate with Iran in industrial projects, particularly in the field of energy, IRNA reported.

**Hajj Issue**—Commenting on Saudi statistics showing that 762,000 foreign pilgrims performed the hajj this year, IRNA said this number is only 164,000 less than last year, a difference which is nearly all accounted for by the absence of Iranian pilgrims.

This shows the "absurdity" of Saudi claims about the need to limit the overall number of pilgrims, the agency said.

### Afghanistan

**Military Situation**—"Criminal extremist groups" fired missiles at residential areas of Kabul 20 September, killing over 62 people and wounding 104, Kabul radio announced.

The previous day Afghan troops discovered a "huge" rebel arms cache holding 650 missiles and hundreds of other weapons, the radio said.

Resistance sources in Islamabad cited by XINHUA stated Soviet jets recently took off from an air base in the USSR to bomb the northern town of Talogan, which was captured by the mujahidin last week.

**Moscow Talks**—Reporting on Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq's meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, TASS said the two sides held "forthright and very frank" talks during which they agreed on the need to strengthen Afghanistan's state leadership and Armed Forces.

They also affirmed the importance of forming a "genuine" and "broad-based" coalition reflecting "all the political streams," noting that the role of the PDPA will depend on its "constructiveness."

Sharq told a news conference that his meeting with Gorbachev was held in an atmosphere of "friendship and mutual understanding," TASS reported, and he also welcomed the economic cooperation agreement which the two countries signed the same day.

This "historic" document, a long-term program for economic, technical, and trade cooperation up to the year 2000, reflects the USSR's pledge to render "considerable assistance" in rehabilitating the Afghan economy, Sharq said.

### Israeli Satellite

An Arab League statement cited by Tunis radio condemned Israel's launching of a satellite as a "hostile act" and stressed the need for Arab countries to take measures to protect their national security.

In Israel, THE JERUSALEM POST contended that the only possible reason for investing Israel's limited resources in the satellite program is a military one, preferably to deter Israel's enemies from even thinking of using their sophisticated weapons.

### PLO Affairs

Palestinian sources cited by Rabat radio stated that the PLO leadership has chosen Tunisia as the venue for the forthcoming PNC session, which will examine arrangements for forming a Palestinian "provisional government."

The decision was taken during recent Palestinian leadership meetings in Tunis under the chairmanship of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

However, 'Arafat subsequently told reporters in Cairo that he has received permission to hold the PNC in Algiers, according to MENA.

'Arafat arrived in the Egyptian capital 21 September to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak, the agency noted.

### Sudan

Non-Muslim parties from the south walked out of the Constituent Assembly 19 September to protest the introduction of a bill to bring in new Islamic laws, AFP reported.

The leader of the Union of African Parties from the South said his group will boycott the debate on shari'a legislation, warning the bill will split the nation.

AFP added that the southern parties have threatened to withdraw from the coalition government, in which they hold five portfolios.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi held talks with Saudi King Fahd in Jeddah 20 September, stating afterward that the purpose of his visit was to thank the Saudi ruler for the Kingdom's support for Sudan during its recent "painful circumstances," SPA noted.

Al-Mahdi said Sudan has been able to "contain" the effects of flood damage and is embarking on a reconstruction project.

He also asserted that the Sudanese Army has scored "major victories" in containing the rebel movement in the south.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Israeli Satellite Launch Termed 'Hostile Act'

*LD2009235888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat describes the Israeli satellite launch as a hostile act.

It stresses the need for Arab countries to take the necessary measures to protect their national security and learn the lessons dictated by this new situation.

In a statement released tonight, the General Secretariat points out that Israel took the Arab community by surprise by launching a satellite which is not the type used for communications, as testified by neutral experts, and at a time when the region is witnessing intensive efforts for peace.

The statement stresses that the military aspect of the Israeli satellite is clear from statements by officials who have exploited Western technology put at their disposal without any conditions.

They intend to penetrate Arab security and facilitate Israeli aggression at an opportune time.

The statement points out that the project would have been impossible to complete without the unlimited financial and technological support provided by [word indistinct] and bodies outside Israel, which are well aware that its use will be for objectives other than peace and security.

### Omani Role in Release of Egyptian Prisoners Noted

*PM209151088 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 88 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Omani Mediation: Egyptian-Iranian UN Meeting Likely"]

[Text] Informed Egyptian sources have revealed that the Sultanate of Oman played a significant part in speeding up the release of a group of Egyptian prisoners held by Iranian naval forces.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Omani State Minister Yusuf bin 'Abdallah bin 'Alawi's recent visit to Cairo was made in the context of Oman's mediation and to convey the results of the contacts held with Tehran.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that Iran has suggested a meeting between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the end of this month, on the fringe of the UN General Assembly session, to settle outstanding issues between the two countries, especially the question of Egyptian prisoners in Iran.

### Algerian Mediation Improves Syrian-Moroccan Ties

*JN2009194988 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Sep 88 p 1*

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that an Algerian mediation between Syria and Morocco has succeeded in restoring relations between the two countries since Syria broke off all relations with Morocco in the wake of the visit to Morocco by Israeli enemy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres 2 years ago.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, an Arab diplomatic source in Rabat said that as a result of this mediation Rabat and Damascus decided to open interest sections in the two countries as a first step to improve and normalize relations.

The source affirmed Algeria will be in charge of Syrian interests in Morocco and Morocco will name an Arab country to be in charge of its interests.

The source also affirmed that a number of Syrian diplomats will arrive in Rabat at the end of September to take care of their country's interests.

## Palestinian Affairs

### PNC To Receive Proposal To Proclaim State

*JN2009133288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Sep*

[Text] The Palestinian leaders have ended the first round of their consultations in Tunis and will resume meetings on 3 October before the convening of the PNC session, which is expected to define the PLO's new political options following Jordan's disengagement of ties with the West Bank.

According to an informed Palestinian source, Palestinian officials have agreed that the following proposals be presented to the PNC: Proclaiming an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and entrusting the PLO Executive Committee and the Central Council with the task of forming an interim government and preparing its political program.

As part of the PLO's consultations both in the Arab and international arenas before the convening of the PNC session, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will leave for Cairo the day after tomorrow, Thursday, at the official invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

This visit to Cairo will take place several days before the meetings, which will be held in New York by the Egyptian, Israeli, and U.S. foreign ministers at the request of U.S. President Reagan.

Meanwhile, commentaries on and reactions to Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg and his meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas are continuing.

Dumas announced that 'Arafat had implicitly recognized Israel when he answered a question and said: I recognize Israel through my recognition of Security Council Resolution No 242.

Dumas added that 'Arafat told him: Ask Shim'on Peres if he is ready to recognize the Palestinian state if I recognize Israeli officially.

According to the French minister, 'Arafat supports the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile.

Dumas also pointed out he will receive Shim'on Peres this week and stressed France's desire to hold a dialogue will all parties.

### Palestinian Leadership Ends Tunis Talks

*LD2009232688 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has ended its meetings held in Tunisia over the past few days under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and in the presence of representatives of the Palestinian revolution factions comprising the PLO, members of the organization's Executive Committee, and members of the Palestinian National Council Bureau.

According to an informed Palestinian source, the Palestinian leadership discussed the political developments and preparations for the forthcoming session of the Palestinian National Council.

The source added the Palestinian leadership also discussed recent developments in the occupied Palestinian territories in light of the intensification of the heroic popular uprising and ways to support our people to (?enable them to) continue their struggle against the Zionist enemy and its abominable occupation.

### Tunisia Chosen as PNC Site

*LD2109011788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] The leadership of the Palestinian resistance today ended the meetings which it began in Tunis on Sunday under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

According to Palestinian sources, the meeting agreed to choose Tunisia as the venue for the forthcoming session of the Palestinian National Council which will convene to examine the various arrangements for forming a Palestinian provisional government. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo; To Meet Mubarak

*NC2109064588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning. He will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments regarding the Palestinian issue at the international level. He also will review the present situation prior to President Mubarak's European tour, which is due to begin tomorrow, Thursday.

'Arafat was received at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

### Makes Arrival Statement

*NC2109092488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Upon arrival in Cairo, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated that his visit to Egypt and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak coincide with fateful and significant developments in the Arab and Palestinian issue. He added: I have come to discuss these developments with a view to serving the interests of the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause, which President Mubarak is eager to serve.

'Arafat referred to President Mubarak's European tour, which is due to begin in a few hours, asserting that the Palestinian issue will be on the top of the president's agenda in the present stage.

'Arafat declared that we are on the threshold of a new stage in our struggle and have entered a significant political period, during which we will determine the geopolitical structure and other features pertaining to the Palestinian issue.

Touching on the issue of a Palestinian government-in-exile, Yasir 'Arafat refuted reports by a foreign news agency that the proclamation of a provisional Palestinian government will be deferred. He described this report as completely groundless, pointing out that discussions are continuing among Palestinian leaders and with Arab friends to decide on the options which should be presented at next month's PNC meeting, so that the best one will be chosen.

He added that he had asked Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid for his permission to hold the PNC meeting in Algiers, and that he had agreed. 'Arafat noted that Tunisia, Libya, and Baghdad had offered to host the PNC meeting, and that he thanked them for the offer.

Commenting on his talks in Libya, 'Arafat disclosed that they dealt with the Arab situation in general and the Palestinian issue in particular. He said that as PLO leader, he is eager to clear the atmosphere among Arab brothers and with friends in the world.

Speaking about Europe's role in the coming stage, he said that both the PLO and President Husni Mubarak believe that Europe can play a major and significant role. He said that Europe can play a dynamic role in securing the convening of an international peace conference at the earliest, or in taking the initiative at the UN Security Council. In this regard, he pointed to the Egyptian-French initiative at the UN Security Council, which aims to push the peace process forward.

With regard to the convening of the international conference, 'Arafat said: We are eager for Europe to play this role so that we can establish a just peace, which would take into consideration the Palestinian people's rights, particularly their right to self-determination.

'Arafat noted that no decisions could be made during the U.S. election period. He pointed to the important lecture that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz recently delivered and in which he had dealt with the Palestinian people's political rights for the first time. 'Arafat described the lecture as elaborating the broad lines of future U.S. policy.

Alluding to the PLO's contacts, 'Arafat maintained that the Palestinian leadership had decided to conduct consultations with the Arab leaders and friends in the world because the PLO cannot deal separately with the projected options without holding consultations with the Arab leaders and friends in the world.

### Mubarak To Tour Europe 'Last Week' of September

*NC1609194788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1902 GMT 16 Sep 88*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will tour Britain, France, Italy, and the FRG during the last week of September. He will hold talks with the leaders of these countries that will deal with recent Middle East and Arab developments and issues related to bilateral ties.

In Saturday's edition, the AL-AHRAM newspaper reports that the president will explain to the leaders of these countries Egypt's relationship with international organizations and its determination to proceed with economic and financial reform measures in a manner commensurate with the Egyptian people's capabilities. He will also discuss Egypt's financial requirements for the next 5-year plan and prospects for receiving aid from advanced industrial states or from international and Arab financial organizations.

The paper adds that President Mubarak's talks in the four countries also will deal with recent peace developments in the Middle East and the new trends of the past few weeks with regard to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

President Mubarak also will discuss the results achieved so far in the Iraq-Iran negotiations and the need for further efforts to ensure their continuation for the sake of attaining peace in the Gulf.

### To Visit SFRY

*JN1909162088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Sep 88 p 1*

[Text] AL-AHRAM's political editor has learned that President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming tour of several European countries scheduled for the end of September will include Belgrade, London, Paris, and Bonn.

President Mubarak is expected to discuss with the Yugoslav leaders in Belgrade important topics connected with the Nonaligned Movement, including the problem of debts in Third World countries and the effect of these debts on their economic situation. In the Yugoslav capital, President Mubarak will also discuss the latest developments in the Middle East and the Gulf war.

Yesterday AL-AHRAM reported that on his 1-week tour President Mubarak will discuss, in addition to political developments, Egypt's relations with international financial institutions and some important topics within the framework of Egypt's relations with the countries he will be visiting.

### Mubarak Interviewed on Economic Policy

*NC2009141588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by unidentified correspondents at the inauguration of an agricultural workers social club in Cairo on 20 September—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In the next few days Your Excellency will be conducting a tour of a number of European countries. Will the future of the Egyptian economy and consolidation of economic development in Egypt be discussed during this tour?

[Mubarak] Actually, discussion of Egypt's economic future has been a continuous process, ever since I assumed power. I am faced with economic problems which have been accumulating for the past 50, 60, or 70 years. I have embarked on solving these problems, but solution requires a long time because a country's economy cannot be improved by pressing a button. Economic reform is a process that may take 5, 10, 15, or 20 years. The IMF realizes this but does not want to accept it. However, we are carrying out economic reform in a manner that suits our living conditions. This reform is not dictated from outside, nor is it aimed at killing the citizen, who is my son and yours. My European tour will deal with several issues, including the Middle East question, the Gulf war, economic matters, and bilateral cooperation. All this will be like a package deal [preceding two words in English] with the countries I will be visiting. Such tours are very important, and contacts with other countries are a fundamental process, unlike in the past. In days gone by, in the 30's and 40's, communications methods were very slow. You needed a week or 10 days to visit America. Now you can reach Paris in 2 and ½ hours in an aircraft such as the Concorde.

Telephones link Egypt with the United States, Japan, or any spot in the world within 3 or 4 minutes. This forces us to move quickly, because matters do not wait for us. We cannot say: Let us wait 1 or 2 months to discuss developments in this or that issue in the Egyptian economy. A thousand events which could change the situation might occur in those 2 months. So we ought to follow up all matters by maintaining contact with other countries. We have friends in the European and socialist countries and [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Your Excellency to the United States, in addition to your visit to the European countries?

[Mubarak] People in the United States have no time for us during their election campaign. So we leave them to their elections. We watch them to benefit ourselves. What would you do there in the midst of these elections, when everyone is preoccupied?

[Correspondent] New [word indistinct] by the French president will be forwarded to Your Excellency during your tour?

[Mubarak] You read news agency printouts, just as I do. There is nothing of this sort, and I have heard nothing.

[Correspondent] Your inauguration of the agricultural workers' hospital is evidence of your concern about agriculture and agricultural workers in Egypt. How do you view the future of agriculture in our country?

[Mubarak] Is there anyone among you who is not involved in agriculture? Every one of you is seeking a plot of desert land to cultivate. Agriculture is the basis. We all relate to agriculture, and we are all farmers. You cannot provide for your living without agriculture. There are countries which dominate the entire world through agriculture and agricultural products. Without agriculture there can be no industry, and without industry there can be no life. So how can we not pay attention to agriculture?

[Correspondent] It is a priority.

[Mubarak] Naturally, it is our number one priority.

[Correspondent] You have shown particular interest in encouraging self-help. This is true for the hospital and social club you have inaugurated. Are you sending a certain message to the public?

[Mubarak] Look, I have something to tell you: The public is richer than the government. Let us be frank. The government is poor. Self-help is essential, and this is true all over the world. In many countries, and this is particularly true for a Third World country like ours, governments are poor while the people are rich. The public, therefore, has to contribute. Those who have the resources should help in improving the standard of living in the country, so as to eliminate tensions and hatred. The poor must feel that the rich are trying to help them. It is not right for the rich to hoard their money or smuggle it abroad while the poor starve.

Self-help is vital for us. We all have to cooperate. The government is faced with endless problems. Reform is needed, and this will take a very long time. It is not easy to implement reforms. We cannot simply trim the economy here and there, lift subsidies, streamline finances, etc. This is impossible.

We have increased salaries by 15 percent, but people are still angry at high prices. The increase was originally planned for only 10 percent, but we added 5 percent to mark the beginning of the school year. I cannot give any more bonuses, because we are already faced with a huge public deficit.

We have another problem. The price of wheat has increased two and a half times. We have to raise more funds to import it. The price of corn has increased one and a half times. The prices of edible oil, sugar, and other basic consumer goods have doubled, and I am trying to keep these substances affordable for the poor.

Let us add another education allowance to salaries and see what will happen. Will the average salaried person be satisfied with the 50 or 60 extra pounds he will get? No. So I would rather think in the longer term. Additions to purchasing power inflate prices, and the consumers become more upset. This is a fact we have to face. I have overruled an increase in the education allowance for the new year, a one-time payment of 50 or 60 pounds which would not have helped anyone. The only effect of such a donation would be to increase prices. It would have meant a 500 million-pound increase in purchasing power and would have driven prices up. Everyone would then regret the education allowance. Let us be reasonable. We cannot afford to give any allowances [words indistinct]. We cannot act this way. It is all right if the public becomes a little angry, but we have to keep the public interests in mind.

I would have liked to increase salaries three times over, if I thought this would help. I could also print paper money and dump it on the market, but this would drive prices up, probably sevenfold. Actually, prices are even higher abroad. We are trying to break out of a vicious circle. A traveller who arrived from the United Kingdom only 4 days ago had bought a pound of sugar for 70 pence, almost 3.25 Egyptian pounds. We should be grateful for what we have. But this does not mean we are not going to work harder to keep prices down through the reduction of commercial intermediaries.

[Correspondent] Mr President: Is there anything new in the Arab arena?

[Mubarak] The Arab arena is all right, thank God. I can see that the Syrians and others are choosing a president for the Lebanese. That is all. [laughter]

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr President.

### Mubarak Comments on IMF, Area Developments

*NC2009194388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has met with scientists and researchers at the agricultural research center. The meeting was also attended by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; the ministers of information and works and water resources; the governor of Al-Jizah; the U.S. ambassador to Cairo; and a large number of scientists and researchers.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said after the meeting that the president had expressed his pleasure at meeting with agricultural workers on various occasions. He congratulated the agricultural workers on their diamond jubilee, noting their efforts, which contribute to the well-being of mankind and the quality of life.

The president then answered questions from a number of agricultural research center staff members. Replying to a question about the possibility of adopting an agricultural policy to deal with the subsidies issue and achieve a balance between prices and wages, the president explained the difficulty in designating those who are eligible for subsidies. He said that all the ideas put forward in this regard have failed to determine accurately and justly who should receive subsidies. He noted that there are numerous citizens other than government and public sector employees who deserve this subsidy. Therefore, he said, we must give consideration to these elements and their sufferings when dealing with the issue of subsidies.

The president noted the accomplishments of the 5-year plan, stressing that through planning and adherence to priorities several reforms and achievements have been made. President Mubarak noted that subsidies are not

limited to the visible subsidies for basic and consumer commodities. There are subsidies for other items, such as oil products and services like education, health, transportation, and others, which add up to a high amount.

The president said that reforms must be practical. We must be aware of the real situation of society and what the citizen is suffering. We must put ourselves in the place of the ordinary, limited-income citizen and aquaint ourselves with basic living requirements. Thus, the reform process will be practical and will have a gradual impact on the citizen, if we are to maintain a suitable standard of living for him.

Answering a question about the reform policy which the IMF is demanding, the president criticized the policy which the IMF is asking be implemented, noting that this would kill the citizen. We cannot adopt the policy of abolishing subsidies with one blow, as the IMF demands. Rather, the issue of subsidies will be resolved gradually, as part of an economic reform which stems from the true nature of the Egyptian economic policy.

President Mubarak said the World Bank's certificates acknowledging Third World countries' efforts are important for supporting their economies. He pointed out that as a result of recent meetings with the IMF, Egypt's situation is now better understood. The IMF, he said, must not issue a single economic prescription for every country, because they all have different economic and social standards.

Asked about the problem of unemployment and the employment of youths, President Mubarak noted that the state is making every effort in this regard, at both the domestic and international levels. To deal with this problem, he said, we need additional investments to open new employment opportunities in the field of land reclamation and to encourage youths to embark on small projects in the agricultural, industrial, tourism, or professional fields and provide them with the necessary aid. The president noted the importance for youths to change their mentality and think of new fields of work, outside the government.

Regarding bread production and improvement of its quality, the president paid tribute to research by the agricultural research center to improve production.

Regarding the need to increase wages to balance increased prices, the president explained that increases in wages must be paralleled by real increases in production. He noted that price fixing and increasing wages mean increasing the losses of the producing public sector companies and also increasing the prices of the private sector's companies and factories, which would have to bear the increase in these wages.

Referring to the need to increase real production to face rising prices, the president praised developments in the field of agricultural development and the increased agricultural production achieved. The president noted that reining in prices is the responsibility of the state and society. The exploiting merchants, he said, will not be deterred unless we ration our consumption and firmly confront all forms of exploitation.

In the field of foreign policy, the president addressed Egypt's relations with the two superpowers and the outside world. The president said: We maintain balanced relations with all countries, based on mutual respect. These relations are consistent with Egypt's political and cultural weight and importance.

The president noted that we maintain excellent relations with all our Arab brothers, except those who do not want the Arab nation to unite but seek Arab division and use insults, referring to Libya and Syria.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, the president noted that he will discuss with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat developments in the Palestinian issue and change views with him. He said: We appreciate advice that serves Palestinian decisionmaking, because we wish to see a sound decision made at the appropriate time. He pointed out that world public opinion is awaiting a Palestinian decision that reflects the true Palestinian thinking at this stage. He affirmed that we continue to support an international conference and seek to convene it.

Regarding the Lebanese problem, the president called on all forces to take their hands off Lebanon, get out of Lebanon, and leave it to the Lebanese, because they are capable of solving their own problems. He noted that Syrian intervention led to Lebanon's divison. [passage omitted]

## AL-WAFD on Expected November Cabinet Reshuffle

*JN1809151788 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p 1*

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Political circles affirm that President Husni Mubarak will carry out a limited cabinet reshuffle following the local council elections in November. Prime Minister Atif Sidqi is expected to be entrusted with this reshuffle. Political circles expect the reshuffle to affect a deputy prime minister and five ministers, most of whom are concerned with the services sector.

Political circles note that the deadlock in talks with the IMF and the creditor nations have delayed this reshuffle more than once. Other reasons for the postponement are the approaching local council elections and the discussion of certain important laws, especially the local administration and investment companies laws, which have been passed by the People's Assembly, and the new

draft housing law and the amendment to the civil service law, which will be presented to the cabinet before the next People's Assembly session.

The same political circles expect some names to figure in this reshuffle such as Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; Dr Samir Tubar, chairman of the NDP economic committee; Dr Muhammad 'Abdillah, chairman of the people's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; and Dr Muhyi al-Gharib, deputy president of the investment organization.

**Reasons Cited for Israeli Strike in Lebanon**
*NC1809133388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Sep 88*

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Israel Strikes in Southern Lebanon To Affirm its Role in the Election of a New President"]

[Excerpts] Why did Israel carry out such a large military operation against Lebanon at this particular time? According to Israeli sources, the operation's aim was to search for Palestinian and Lebanese Resistance fighters after an attack by a Palestinian group against Israeli targets. We will disregard this feeble Israeli excuse because an Israeli military source stated that Israeli patrols killed the three-member Palestinian group before it could inflict any human or material losses.

So where is the truth? In fact, there are three closely connected reasons for this Israeli military operation against Lebanon.

The first reason, which at first glance may seem the only real one, is that Israel wanted to tell the Palestinian resistance that it is completely capable of crushing any attempt to destabilize the situation on the Lebanese-Israeli border. Israel also wanted to say that if the Israeli forces have so far dealt in a limited way with the Palestinian uprising, this is because it does not want to make of this uprising a national martyr on which some Palestinians inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories will capitalize. Moreover, Israel wanted to say that if necessary the Israeli forces can crush the uprising and anything Palestinian, regardless of the world's denunciation. [passage omitted]

The second reason is directed at Lebanon itself. By this operation Israel wanted to declare, in the language of iron and fire that the current events in Lebanon are of interest to the Israeli Government. Israel also wanted to say that it is a party which cannot be excluded in any way from the process of electing a new president to succeed President Amin al-Jumayyil.

In view of the current Syrian-U.S. talks, Israel wanted to indicate that it cannot allow anyone to bypass its right to have a say in the election of a new president. Israel wanted to imply that the Al-Asad Murphy talks in Damascus should take this factor into consideration. [passage omitted]

The third reason, amazingly connected with the second one, is that this operation was part of a Syrian-Israeli plan to divide roles to subjugate Lebanon completely to the control of the two sides. Secret reports say that this plan has been in effect since May, when an Israeli force of 3,000 men stormed southern Lebanon and stayed there for 4 days without receiving even a protest from the Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

## Sudan

**Armed Forces Clash With Rebels; 33 Rebels Dead**
*JN2109110888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Sep (SUNA)—A unit of the Armed Forces in the Turkaka area of the Equatoria Region clashed with rebel forces yesterday morning.

This morning's papers quoted military sources in the Armed Forces as saying the rebels sustained heavy losses in lives and equipment in this battle.

The sources said that rebel losses reached 33 dead, including one officer. The sources added that several of the rebels were wounded and a quantity of arms, including 17 Kalashnikov rifles and one Diktorov machine gun, as well as ammunition were seized. Four men of the Armed Forces were wounded, the sources said.

**Equatoria Region Governor Interviewed**
*PM2009090188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p 5*

[Interview with Morris Lawiya, leader of the SAPCO Party and governor of the Equatoria Region, by Idris al-Qadi in Juba; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Qadi] The war in the south constitutes Sudan's main problem. Everyone is trying to stop the bloodshed. In your capacity as governor of the Equatoria Region and leader of a major party in the south, SAPCO [Sudanese African People's Congress], what peace moves have you made? What is your attitude toward the rebel movement?

[Lawiya] The war claims scores of lives every day. Some die of starvation or sickness and from rebel bullets as a result of the conflict between the rebels and the Sudanese Armed Forces. This is in addition to the destruction of the infrastructures needed for development. The south is on the verge of complete destruction. That is why we, the southern Sudanese parties, have agreed within the transitional charter on the need to hold a constitutional

national conference this year. All parties and politicians of the north share the same view. John Garang must know that all parties want a dialogue. Let us sit at the negotiating table in order to reach an agreement.

We in SAPCO have raised many proposals in support of unity among the southern forces in order to help the regime. We suggested that Sudan be ruled on a federal basis, that its regions be transformed into provinces as a solution for the problem of authority, and that southerners participate in central power via a fair number of positions that carry weight matching up to their population. We also demanded that development be given precedence in the regions suffering most from backwardness and that national wealth be distributed fairly among the various regions.

We in the Equatorial government condemn the northern voices calling for separating the south from the north, claiming that the continuation of the civil war is the cause. I must emphasize that John Garang does not represent the south. He just represents a tiny part of the south. Even John Garang himself does not call for separation. In fact, southerners are more committed to Sudanese unity.

[Al-Qadi] The Council of Ministers is currently studying a plan concerning the application of Islamic laws as an alternative to the 1983 September laws. The new thing about these laws is that they will be applied on a regional basis. Do you support this idea?

[Lawiya] According to the principles of our party, we repudiate any laws based on religion for fear that they could cause major sedition. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadi] Equatorians adopt a hard-line position and insist on the idea of partitioning the south into three regions, thus rejecting unity of the south. Why?

[Lawiya] We reject the idea that the south should return as one region. The prepartition period witnessed the Dinka tribe's total control over the south and its occupation of all strategic positions in government, police, prisons, civil service. In addition, it ignored the other tribes, especially the Equatoria tribes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadi] The Equatoria Region has several problems with two neighboring states, namely Kenya and Uganda. Accusations are being exchanged among you via the opposition forces in both countries. What is the true situation?

[Lawiya] Last year the Ugandan Government accused the central Sudanese government of supporting the Ugandan opposition movement. When the central government refuted that, they issued a statement indicating that it was the Equatoria government which was both training and arming opposition elements. A meeting was held between us and Uganda and our position was explained. They were convinced of our evidence.

Then we accused them of supporting the rebel movement led by John Garang, as they received him officially and facilitated the rebels' movement across their territory to plant mines along the Sudanese-Ugandan borders. Uganda denied its support for the rebel movement. [passage omitted]

As for relations with Kenya, they are still tense. During one of my visits to Kenya last year before I became governor, I saw with my own eyes the leaders of the popular movement moving freely inside the Kenyan capital. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### U.S. May Scale Down Tanker Convoy Operations

*LD2009204388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1954 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Washington, Sept 20 (KUNA)—The U.S. may decrease the scale of tanker convoy operations in the Arabian Gulf and let its allies absorb some of them, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

Defense Department Spokesman Dan Howard said during the daily press briefing: "We've talked about what we have under consideration, and we're certainly discussing possible changes (in escort policy) with our allies."

But Howard added no final decision had yet been made, and he was unable to provide a "target date" for changes that would provide for an [word indistinct] in the presence of its allies' naval vessels.

Asked why the allies needed to be consulted about revisions in the U.S.' Gulf role, he said, "We have friends and allies in the Gulf area...who are also contributing to escort missions and the security of shipping in the international waters of the Gulf."

The spokesman added it was "only right and proper" that the U.S. made its allies aware of "whatever changes we have under consideration, consult with them and obtain their views."

Howard noted that while only the U.S. has "reflagged" tankers, Britain and France also have provided naval escorts in the strategic waterway. For now, "we're still doing it like we've done it in the past," the Pentagon spokesman said.

And he announced the U.S.S. Bradley had just completed the 65th mission to escort re-registered Kuwaiti tankers—the "Gas Prince" and the "Gas Queen"—through the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the mission was completed without incident, adding there have been 87 such missions since the operation began with about 178 vessels so far escorted.

### Iraqi Foreign Minister Makes Departure Statement

*LD2009195188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1531 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 20 (KUNA)—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Tuesday said that Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations have always been distinguished for understanding and solidarity particularly during the period of confronting the Iranian aggression.

'Aziz, speaking to KUNA on his departure here tonight for the third leg of a Gulf tour that started yesterday in Saudi Arabia, added that such understanding and solidarity strengthens at times of peace to prevail security and stability in the region. He pointed out that such an attitude also covers pan-Arab relations in general.

Speaking of his audience with h.h. the amir, 'Aziz said that he conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn dealing with the strong and fraternal relations between Kuwait and Iraq.

The message also covered developments of the negotiations between Iraq and Iran in Geneva to implement Security Council Resolutuion 598 in addition to current Arab situation and issues of common interest, the Iraqi chief diplomat went on.

'Aziz hailed Arab solidarity with Iraq and said that the Arab leaders who stood with Iraq in the past years, especially in the summits of Amman and Algiers, "are still working with the same enthusiasm and strength for confronting the duties of the new stage."

Based on the date for the resumption of the Geneva talks, the foreign minister said that "we are still waiting for the U.N. secretary general to fix a date for the meeting in New York."

He recalled in this respect his past statements that the Iraqi delegation was ready for one meeting in New York which the talks should resume in Geneva after the two parties agree on a date for that resumption.

'Aziz was seen off by his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait and other senior officials.

### AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Shultz' Mideast Remarks

*JN1909185488 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 18 Sep 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "Shultz' Statements"]

[Text] He who reads U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' statements can work out a detailed scenario of all likely possibilities that may be the focus of efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in the coming phase.

Shultz was frank and clear in stressing his country's absolute bias toward Israel in light of his experience throughout the years at the Department of State during President Ronald Reagan's two terms of office.

Regardless of Shultz' answers to questions on the Middle East, the impression we get is that the U.S. solutions to this conflict will neither conform to Arab wishes and aspirations nor to conceptions bound to safeguard interests and attain a just, comprehensive peace.

Shultz' statements were a mere defense of Israeli "rights and interests." This defense tries to realize additional gains for Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations and wishes.

Shultz has chosen to conclude his work at the Department of State in a Machiavellian way—like previous secretaries. Shultz thought, just as they did, that Israel can retain parts of the Arab territories occupied in the 5 June 1967 aggression and that Israel can live in peace at the same time.

Although Shultz urged Israelis to be realistic and admit that it is impossible to maintain the current situation indefinitely, he also allowed sufficient room for maneuvering and for deducing whatever can be deduced from his statements.

In the past, U.S. officials proposed equations that could not be realized, thereby aggravating the situation and perpetuating the conflict. However, matters are completely different today after the end of the Iraq-Iran war and the escalation in the Palestinian uprising.

It is enough for an observer who follows events in the region to read analyses and listen to statements to discover that Israeli military power alone is no longer sufficient or able to obtain recognition or maintain occupation of the territories.

The ailment has reached the inside of the Zionist entity, and Israel no longer has a glimmer of hope of creating any sort of coexistence or maintaining both its occupation and policy of fait accompli.

Perhaps the best point cutting short the confusion in the U.S. story is Shultz' admission that the Israelis have no basis for saying there is no one with whom they can negotiate a political settlement of the conflict. This is proven by the fact Shultz affirmed the presence of a Palestinian negotiator whose existence had long been denied by the United States itself.

Hence, there emerges a state of confusion in U.S. political thinking whenever the issue concerns Israel. There also emerges the strength and influence of the Zionist lobby on the U.S. administration.

## Saudi Arabia

### Council of Ministers Reviews Lebanese Situation

*LD1909213188 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired the council of ministers' session this afternoon—Monday 19 September—at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the session, His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, made a statement to SPA. [pasage omitted] The information minister said: Regarding Lebanon, the Council reviewed recent developments and expressed hopes that God guides the Lebanese people in electing a president who will endeavor to bring about consensus, preserve unity and independence, and protect the land and people, so that reforms and reconstruction take place, and so that Lebanon will be able to play its distinguished Arab role in politics, culture and civilization.

Minister al-Sha'ir said: In this context, the beloved king explained his comment about events in Lebanon, saying: During the last few days we have received a number of cables and messages from friendly political and religious leaderships—for whom we have every amity and respect—explaining the situation and expressing specific wishes on the atmosphere of the presidential election in Lebanon.

We have said—based on our permanent and known policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of brotherly and friendly countries and on our concern to secure the appropriate climate for independent elections stemming from the will of the Lebanese people—to all those who contacted us among the Lebanese brothers, that we have full confidence in the Lebanese parliament's capacity to organize honest and democratic elections according to the existing constitutional formula.

At the same time we stressed the fallacy of what has occurred to some concerning the existence of any Saudi influence [dhil] on the elections inside and outside Lebanon. We are convinced of their good understanding and far-sightedness for a thriving state of affairs. [passage omitted]

### Sudanese Prime Minister Arrives 20 Sep

*LD2009125588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1057 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 Sep (SPA)—His Excellency Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi arrived at King 'Abd al-Aziz International Airport at 1215 today. He was welcomed His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

### Meets With King, Others

*LD2009151988 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon received at his office in the royal court in Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah His Excellency al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of Sudan.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz,

second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Excellency Muhammad ibn Zar'a minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the Audit Office and minister accompanying the visiting Sudanese Prime Minister; His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, information minister and 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Sudayri, the Kingdom's ambassador to Sudan.

The audience was also attended by His Excellency Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the Sudanese foreign minister, His Excellency Mathew Obor minister of labor, and Issa Mustafa Sudanese ambassador to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

### Comments on Floods

*LD2009201788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Sep (SPA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq a!-Mahdi said that the Sudanese people appreciate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's recent stand in support of Sudan.

During a press conference in Jeddah today, he said that his visit is basically carried out to extend thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his government, and the Saudi people for this great brotherly stand.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi pointed out that Sudan is able, thank God, despite the difficulties and the problems it faces, to contain the direct effects of the flood damage. He said that these abundant waters are of great advantage for the country with regard to pastures, agriculture, and water resources. He said: We are now planning reconstruction in the damaged areas.

The Sudanese prime minister explained that the losses are being assessed accurately. A high-ranking ministerial committee was formed to set up a program for the reconstruction and repair of damaged installations. This reconstruction project will be open to all circles able to contribute.

Various circles have sent technical commissions to study the priorities that will enable Sudan to face these conditions, and to study the possibility of cooperating with it in these fields. He hailed Sudan's relations with other Arab states, asserting they are as good as possible; Arab brethren are most helpful.

The Sudanese prime minister denied foreign media reports that the aid given to Sudan following the floods did not reach those who deserved it. He described them as tendentious propaganda, adding: Circles which propagated such reports have withdrawn them.

He said that the situation in Sudan is calm, and pointed out that the current government of national concord is supported by the Sudanese people. He stated that the Sudanese Armed Forces are required to preserve the highest level of control, coordination, and discipline. We control our own affairs and strive to ensure the competence of the higher command. It rests on the higher command to organize matters according to competence and ability within the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces have scored major victories in containing the rebel movement. Proof of this is the fact that a great number of rebels are surrendering daily. He pointed out that changes which took place in the ranks of the Sudanese Armed Forces were normal measures.

He again emphasized that the purpose of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is to thank the custodian of the two holy mosques for the fraternal position adopted by the Kindgom toward the Sudanese people and their government during the painful circumstances of the Sudanese people.

Asked about measures to be adopted by Sudan to confront floods, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said: The first problem to be considered is that the Nile follows a certain course which, however, does not take into account Sudanese villages. He said that there is a need to study the maximum extent of any floods, so that villages may be planned accordingly.

He added that limited flooding is desirable, a coveted annual event of benefit to Sudan's agricultural economy and to the countries through which the Nile runs.

### Departs Jeddah

*LD2009171188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1522 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 Sep (SPA)—His Excellency al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of Sudan, left Jeddah this afternoon after a short visit to the Kingdom during which he met with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

Among those who saw him off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

## Paper Says Israel, Kurds Aided U.S. 'Campaign'

*JN1909113888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Sep 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 (WAKH)—Press reports in Abu Dhabi today said that the U.S.-backed international campaign against Iraq alleging that Iraq used chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds was prepared for and agreed to by Israeli enemy leaders and Kurdish rebellion leaders in coordination with U.S. officials. Meetings were held that month between leaders of Kurdish movements and enemy leaders in occupied Palestine. The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today cites Western diplomatic sources in London as saying that Zionist enemy war minister Yitzhaq Rabin took part in these meetings. Also participating were Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman, so-called Immigration Absorption Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, Gid'on Pat, Zionist minister of science and development, and former Zionist war minister Moshe Arens.

The same sources add that the leaders of the Kurdish rebellion movements asked the Zionist leaders to host them in occupied Palestine immediately after the cease-fire announcement on the Iraq-Iran front to discuss the future of Iraqi Kurds and Israeli-Kurdish cooperation in this regard. The sources said that the Zionist leaders contacted the U.S. Administration to acquaint it with this subject. The enemy leaders also requested Washington to extend necessary support to Tel Aviv because it intends to extend military and material support to the Kurdish rebels to incite unrest in the Kurdish areas in Iraq following the end of the Iraq-Iran war. The same sources revealed that the U.S. Administration sent information it has gotten on Kurdish rebellion movements since Kurdish leader Mustafa al-Barzani opened his lines completely with the United States. The U.S. Administration also agreed to increase material support for Israel to meet its needs in supporting the Iraqi Kurdish movements.

The same sources affirm that the meetings of the Kurdish rebellion leaders with enemy leaders achieved three objectives for the Kurdish leaders. These are: first, obtaining material support to facilitate the movement of those leaders on regional and international levels; second, obtaining military support for Kurdish militia personnel still present in some Kurdish areas in Iraq; and third, securing Israeli support for Kurdish rebellion movements by launching a media campaign against Iraq which emerged victorious from the war and enjoys a strong position at the UN-sponsored peace negotiations. The same Western diplomatic sources indicate that the media war plan agreed upon in Tel Aviv in coordination with the United States includes an active role by Israel—the Zionist officials link the killing by gas of Jews in Hitler's Germany to current allegations against Iraq.

## Ramadan Editorial Assails U.S. 'Knesset'

*JN2009074088 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Sep 88 p 3*

[Article by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member: "The U.S. Knesset"]

[Text] Some people may be surprised when they hear for the first time the term U.S. Knesset instead of U.S. Congress, following the U.S. Congress' notorious decision to impose economic sanctions against Iraq, a country that is great with its leader, people, and heroism. The Arab and Iraqi citizens are accustomed to the name "Israeli" Knesset because there is only one Knesset, the Israeli Knesset. The name of the Israeli Knesset, with its notorious history against the Arabs in particular and against people that love freedom and progress in general, has a special meaning for every honorable Arab and indeed for every Muslim citizen and fair man in the world. The Knesset is a gathering of people who carry in their hearts all the hatred and enmity toward the world in general and toward the Arabs in particular. The Knesset, which openly carries on the front of its building the slogan "From the Nile to the Euphrates" is seeking to achieve that slogan by all means without any regard for human values and ethics. It is truly a Knesset with no shame or morals. The fat record of its black history is full of deception, lies, and prevarication which are some of the features of that abhorrent, hostile, and evil gathering that harbors hatred against the Arabs in the past, present, and future.

The Knesset, which regrettably some people in cultural and particularly U.S. circles try to depict as a model of the democratic formulas in which they believe, constantly decides to annex Arab territory through resolutions it adopts. It adopted a resolution annexing the Golan Heights, and another resolution annexing the West Bank [as published]. It had decided, with the help of the United States, Britain, and others, to seize beloved Palestine. It also adopted a resolution implicitly providing for the extermination of the Palestinian people, and indeed, approved the methods used to annihilate the Arab people in their occupied land, to shoot youths, children, and women, to demolish houses over their inhabitants, to burn property and stores, and to expel Palestinians outside their countries and away from their homes and families.

Do Arab and Iraqi citizens need to be reminded that had it not been for the U.S. Congress—sorry, we mean the U.S. Knesset—and its gigantic efforts and constant struggle against the Arabs, the Israeli Knesset would not have been able to adopt these resolution with such flagrant and evil impudence? The implementation of the Knesset's decisions to persist in its savage aggression against Arab citizens, Arab rights, and Arab territory would not have been possible had it not been for the U.S. Congress' support, backing, and encouragement for the Zionist Knesset. Can anyone believe that, had it not been for the U.S. Congress and its decisions, the Zionist entity could have existed on Arab land. The name U.S. Knesset

comes as a result of the fact that the headquarters of the Knesset are in the United States and its meetings are held in the United States. The essence of its policy is to serve Israel. It is the original Knesset, while the gathering that holds its meetings in occupied Palestine—the so-called Israeli Knesset—is merely a facade to implement the resolutions of the Zionist gathering that holds its meetings in the United States and that harnesses all its capabilities and all U.S. resources in the service of the freak Zionist entity. Any fair Arab and Muslim citizen in the world must have observed on several occasions throughout history that the U.S. Congress has issued decisions that can hardly be viewed as serving the interest of the United States. Here are few examples: The U.S. Congress decided to ban the sale of certain weapons to Saudi Arabia, although the latter was willing to pay a handsome price for these weapons. What did such a decision by the American Knesset mean? It is obvious that the decision was made with Israel's security and protection in mind. Yet, this decision was against the interest of the United States, because it harmed the U.S.industry and economy. Moreover, it undermined other people's confidence in U.S. credibility. The proof was that Saudi Arabia took another course of action to ensure the types of arms it needed for its pan-Arab role. It obtained those arms in a shorter period and at a cheaper rate. The same can be said about the U.S. Congress decision not to supply a certain type of anti-aircraft weapon to Jordan. The U.S. Congress decisions against Saudi Arabia and Jordan, countries known for their friendship with the United States, do not serve the interest of the United States and its people and economy. There were many other similar decisions.

Therefore, the U.S. Senate is a Zionist council with an American cover. It is in fact an American Knesset, not an American Congress. We must all deal with it on the basis of these facts and the various stands and decisions it adopts. We must deal with it as it is—not as the Congressmen claim it to be. They deceive people about democracy, freedom, and justice, yet they are behind the decisions of aggression and usurpation of human rights and freedom. Palestine is not the only victim. Many other parts of the world have fallen victim. We are fully aware of the close strategic relationship between the American Knesset and the Zionist Knesset. The American Knesset's role and task is to serve the direct objectives of the Zionist entity. Therefore, the American Knesset cannot but support any matter concerning this entity's interest and existence. The American Knesset can only be on the side of the Zionist Knesset. In fact, the American Knesset is responsible for defending the Zionist Knesset and its policy as well as any savage, aggressive, and expansionist decisions it makes.

We have tried sometimes to expect or to imagine that other matters not directly related to the interest of the midget Zionist entity would be tackled by the U.S. Congress in the interest of the United States and its international relations according to a reasonable level of logic and justice through objective stands based on justice, peoples' freedom and human rights. However, this Knesset comes up with strange stands every day. We find that all its stands are geared toward serving every activity that harms the Arab nation and encumbers its progress and awakening.

Therefore, it has been practically proven that this Knesset supports any terrorist, party or state ready to work against the Arab nation's interests and progress because this directly or indirectly serves the Zionist entity, for which the U.S. Knesset is a servant. Moreover, the U.S. Knesset fundamentally exists for the sake of the Zionist Knesset and its objectives and policy. The great Iraqi victory of liberating Al-Faw surprised the United States and all its apparatuses more than it surprised the Iranian enemy. After the successive great and historic Iraqi victories, the United States, a superpower—while claiming to be seeking an end to the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful means, working at international forums and with its friends to establish peace, and raising the slogan of chasing international terrorism regardless of its source—hosted, through its Zionist assembly, the known international terrorist Jalal Talabani.

He was welcomed as a dear guest and met with a number of those who claim to be democratic. The "combatants" of terrorism were not satisfied with meeting with terrorist Talabani and planning conspiracies against the Arabs, but assembled for him a number of journalists to hold a press conference. And where was that? It was at the U.S. State Department headquarters. The U.S. Administration then said that it was not aware of this matter and that those who met with Talabani were congressmen. The U.S. Administration said that it could not prevent them from doing so as it wants to be described as democratic and cannot limit the activity of others. The U.S. Administration says this shamelessly. It does not know that whoever hears this, ridicules it and is surprised that the U.S. Administration reaches this low level of trivial justifications and interpretations, which cannot be believed by the simplest people, not to mention those interested in political affairs.

The U.S. Administration thinks that we and others do not know that this traitor or any other person cannot enter the United States without an order by the U.S. Administration and cannot stay in the United States without its approval. There are many Arab strugglers accused of terrorism by the United States and by its Knesset in particular. Orders were issued preventing them from entering the United States, and even other countries allied with the United States at its request. The United States and the Knesset in it know that when Arab strugglers request a visit to the United States they do so in order to explain their stands, shed light on facts, and refute the lies propagated by the Knesset against the Arabs.

The U.S. Administration said that what happened was a mistake and will not be repeated. However, following the continued crushing Iraqi victories and the collapse of Iran, Israel's ally and instrument in achieving its expansionist

designs in the Arab region, the U.S. Knesset—and with it the U.S. Administration—lost its nerve, memory, and consciousness, and began to look for a way to undermine Iraq's great victories whose positive effect in the future is not confined to Iraq alone but will affect all Arabs. These victories will truly be the end of the deterioration and inaction of the Arab nation and will be the beginning of a broad awakening under the banner of the great Arab leader, who is loved by his people, and by the Arab masses throughout and outside the Arab world, comrade struggler Saddam Husayn. The United States has begun, through its Knesset, to look for ways to undermine the Iraqi victories whose news have reverberated throughout the world, and to undermine the stone revolution in the occupied territory which disturbed the Zionist Knesset. The United States found, in the lie about the use of chemical weapons against agent saboteurs in the northern part of the homeland, an outlet to air the annoyance and anxiety which it, together with Zionism and Iran, had felt. Thus the United States imagined that the lie will extinguish the light of the victories.

The United States could not find anything other than that ridiculous and dull lie to protest the move by the Iraqi Armed Forces, the civil defense forces, and units of the Popular Army comprised of the sons of our Kurdish people to clean the northern part of the homeland from the surrogates of the foreigner and to free our Kurdish people from the traitors and harness their energies to advance the capabilities of our Armed Forces on the front—especially in the central and southern sectors—so that the northern part of the homeland will enjoy security, stability, construction and progress in a peaceful atmosphere like the rest of the country. The U.S. Knesset cannot, of course, say such words because they do not please it. It does not like to see the people of Iraq living in security and stability, enjoying national unity, and building their dear Iraq. So it resorted to the story of chemical weapons. The U.S. Knesset forgot that the world knows that the adoption of such a resolution requires a relatively long time and well-known legal and medical measures. It requires committees going to the area, carrying out various tests, collecting information and submitting all that data as documents and proof to that Zionist lodge in case it wants to make a decision.

The Zionist Knesset did not base its decision on such measures because it was sure that by doing so it would not reach its desired conclusion. So it based its decision on the claims of the seccessionist agents themselves. It adopted its resolution 2 days after the purging operations in our dear north—the time required for any team or committee to travel from the United States to Turkey or to any area close to Iraq. Everyone became convinced that the resolution was ready and that members of the U.S. Congress were awaiting a specific incident to release the resolution hoping that it will help the Tehran rulers—allies of Zionism—in their ordeal, console them in their disaster, and belittle the great Iraqi victories. Therefore, we can say to the American Knesset: You have failed in your plans this time. The U.S. Administration has also failed in its dealings with Iraq.

We hoped Irangate was the United States' last attempt at underhanded dealings, lies, and deception in international relations after it was exposed, scandalized, and disgraced, despite our conviction about the U.S. plan in the region and U.S. interests in Iran. These interests do not concern us. What concerns us is the safety, dignity, and sovereignty of our country and Arab nation. We also hoped that the U.S. Administration's hosting of traitor Jalal Talabani was a mere coincidence that would not be repeated. But we realize that this administration is powerless before the Israeli Knesset.

The terror experienced by Israel these days due to the revolution of stones by our kinfolk in occupied Palestine for several months now and Arab Iraq's great victory is also faced by the American Knesset. This is why this Knesset is behaving in a manner contrary to the interest of the United States—the country in which it meets and issues its miserable decisions. To remove any delusions that might exist in anyone's mind and in order to present the true facts, we ask the American Knesset to meet in Israel whenever it wants to discuss decisions of this nature so that it would be in harmony with itself and its objectives, would confirm that its policy serves the country in which it meets, and so that there will be no mixup of cards—at least for novices in politics. The U.S. Congress' bewailing over human rights has resulted in a decision to boycott Iraq economically. It is as if Iraq depends on the United States economically and receives billions of dollars from it.

What is ridiculous is that the American Knesset knows more than anyone else in its capacity as the source of authority in the United States that Iraq does not receive any aid from the United States. On the contrary, it is the United States which benefits from Iraq when it purchases certain U.S. items. These and other items are available everywhere in the world and can be obtained from more than one source. Iraq is purchasing these items from the United States to diversify its economic dealings. The American Knesset knows precisely and in full detail that the United States does not supply arms to Iraq despite the fierce war it has fought for 8 long years. It knows that most of the Iranian enemy's armament comes from the United States, which has continued directly or indirectly to replenish the Iranian arsenal with all types of arms and that Irangate is only one chapter and not all the chapters of U.S. armament of Iran and U.S. efforts to continue to supply all types of arms to the Iranian Armed Forces. This is despite the United States' claims that it is not supplying arms to Iran and its request to its allies not to supply arms to Iran, and also despite its claims that Irangate only involved a small quantity of a certain type of arms. The U.S. Knesset has talked about its decision as though it will change the balance in the region. However, we must not be surprised by such talk because the rancorous are blind to the truth. The members of the U.S. Knesset and the Zionists and Khomeyniites, are living a state of eternal hatred against the Arabs, freedom, defense of sovereignty, and the foiling of aggressors' ambitions. They are going through a difficult psychological state and a worrying depression. Therefore,

they are excused for their lack of vision, their haste, and for adopting hasty decisions not based on facts. We say to that rancorous clique—the U.S. Knesset—that through its resolution it has served us and provided every honest Arab with yet another proof of the United States' anti-Arab stands. It has alerted those who do not know the United States, the friendship of the United States, and the U.S. Knesset, to how far their friendship and credibility can go. The U.S. Knesset has reaffirmed that it is in the interest of the Arab nation to increase its cooperation and solidarity in order to develop its own capabilities for it is greater than any outside forces.

The Knesset's decision has given a new signal—not the first—that in its international relations, Arab policy must be based on pan-Arab interests and increase its links and cooperation with all world countries to serve Arab interests. The decision has confirmed that the Knesset can only be in the service of the Zionist entity as long as that entity is stifling the Arabs in dear Palestine.

The U.S. Knesset's decision to impose economic sanctions on Iraq encourages the Arabs to work harder toward complete solidarity, particularly in the economic field, to strengthen the turning to democracy in order to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation now and in the future, and to define their international relations with world countries which should be compatible with the stand of these countries toward our national and pan-Arab interests. The U.S. Knesset, with its new decision, has rendered a service to Iraq and the Arabs for which it frankly deserves to be thanked. Through its decision, the U.S. Knesset has exposed the falsehood of, and the lies and claims made by certain parties that tried to pretend they were friends of the Arabs and Iraq. The Zionist U.S. Congress deserves to be thanked because its decision contributed toward dispelling any illusion among Arabs and Iraqis that could affect their work and tireless struggle to build their strength and national and pan-Arab capabilities without relying on others.

Forward O people of Iraq, the people of difficult tasks, under the banner of the leader, comrade, and brother Saddam Husayn. Shame to the ignominious.

## Media Commentary on Ofeq-1 Satellite Launch

### Implications of Launch Cited

*TA2009142088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Sep 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "An Achievement That Calls for Decisions"]

[Text] The launching of the experimental Ofeq-1 satellite attests to Israel's scientific-technological abilities. There is no doubt that the scientists, engineers, and workers in the electronics industries deserve to be praised for having made such a technological achievement possible. Although the satellite launched yesterday is experimental and has a short life span, it is not devoid of economic, political, and security aspects. First and foremost, it strengthens the position voiced by former IDF generals, members of the Peace and Security Movement, that there is no need to hold onto territory in order to ensure Israel's security. Israel can cope better in the area of strategic confrontation than with stones and plastic bullets. That is why Israel should base its future and security on its being an advanced, developed, and peace-seeking country. To that end, it is necessary to do away with the paranoia of Sharon and his friends who are still fighting wars of guns and mortars and who see danger in any hill rising to 250 meters at a time when modern means can reach an altitude of 250 kms.

Technological achievements require vast resources, which, as is known, are not unlimited. That is why the economic and commercial applications of the satellites should be developed so as to minimize the financial burden posed by development. Paradoxically enough, the launch of a satellite whose final price tag is estimated at $1 billion and an 8-million-shekel cut in the budget for higher education came at one and the same time. Israel will have to choose one of two alternatives: either waste national resources to quell an uprising that Shamir believes will last 70 years; or develop its human potential and scientific-technological-industrial abilities. In any event, great care should be taken not to have the satellite's launch revive the arms race in the Middle East. The superpowers are trying to avoid such an escalation in their bilateral relations, and that is why it is imperative that the national unity government get out of its intellectual and political freeze. Also, we should not get carried away by success or make a show of muscle. Although there are many clear days in the Middle East during the year, only a few cloudy days or a wrong security perception are needed to start preparing for war. Past experience shows that what is lacking at times is not information but rather a correct perception of the situation.

### Value of Space Program Queried

*TA2009134788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Sep 88 p 10*

[Commentary by economics editor Shlomo Ma'oz: "No Such Thing as a Free Launch"]

[Text] Israel is justified in celebrating yesterday's launching of Ofeq-1, the country's first satellite. There isn't any question that this is an impressive technological feat for which we can take much pride. After all, few countries have the scientific prowess to embark on such a programme operation, and certainly none of them have a population of less than 4.5 million people. The official Israeli Aircraft Industries [IAI] communique, released yesterday, a few hours after the launch, claimed the satellite project was aimed at putting Israel in the community of nations engaged in space research and to demonstrate the country's advanced space technology. IAI Managing Director Moshe Qeret, in a radio interview, estimated the space project had cost about $200 million since it was begun in the 1970s. That would have been a huge waste of money, however, if the programme was designed only to prove our ability. The only possible reason for investing the country's limited resources in such an ambitious programme is a military one or, better yet, to deter the enemy from even thinking of using any of the sophisticated weapons it has acquired of late.

Israel's taxpayers have the right to know all about the budget of this grand operation—not the secret aspects of the programme, simply the cost. In the past, virtually everything in Israel seemed to be shrouded in secrecy—a measure employed just as often to cover up inefficiency and overly-ambitious, unviable schemes as to protect militarily sensitive information. The Lavi project, for instance, not only cost Israel $1.2 billion but occupied some of the country's most talented workers, leaving other sectors of the economy without the trained personnel they needed. The government cannot hide behind the IAI. There should be open debate about the necessity of a space programme, where the funding will come from and at whose expense. Only then, should the Israeli Space Agency and the IAI proceed. The two organizations have been spending about $30m. annually in the last several years, but experience shows that such programmes have the unfortunate tendency towards swelling budgets.

Israel is now implementing painful cuts in education, its road infrastructure is badly in need of upgrading—the list of things requiring a bigger piece of the government's strained budget is long and growing. On the eve of Yom Kippur we should put our well deserved pride aside and weigh carefully the value of the space project.

### Reactions to Launch Foreseen

*TA2009150088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Sep 88 p 13*

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Reactions That Will Follow the Launch"]

[Text] Given the implications of the satellite launch, the superpowers, and certainly the Arab countries, cannot help but react. Along with the praise for its ability, Israel is bound to meet with criticism. It is important to assess the possible future reactions. Many will probably ask: Why now? Why is Israel unveiling its potential at this particular time? The launch of a satellite is not a sudden

operation. It requires months and years of preparation. Is the launch designed to signal to Arab countries, such as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and even Egypt, which have been purchasing surface-to-surface missiles, to tread cautiously? On the other hand, perhaps the timing of the launch is accidental, or nearly accidental, a result of the elections, of the end of a term?

Although one of the more serious Arab publications (ISTRATIJIYAH 'ARABIYAH published in London) has been warning for the last year that Israel is on the verge of introducing a satellite into space, the operation is bound to jolt the Arab countries. They will probably conclude, and justly so, that taking a better advantage of technological and scientific developments to upgrade its military capabilities, Israel continues to maintain a qualitative disparity. On the one hand, incapable of finding the key to solve the intifada [uprising], Israel sends a bewildered army to face the civil uprising. On the other hand, it is capable of a technological leap which will some day allow it to peek into the backyard of the Arab states and to reach places inaccessible to its fighter and intelligence aircraft.

The Arabs will realize that one experiment will be followed by others. It is safe to assume that as time goes by, Israel will attain a higher standard of intelligence and deterrence, and one of the results will be a better control over forces deployed far from the headquarters. In other words, the Arabs will probably realize that Israel's power of deterrence has grown. What is the Arab reaction apt to be in such a case? There are several possibilities: They could exert pressure on the Soviet Union, demanding either satellite services or a satellite at their disposal. They could also decide to make a joint effort, such as that of Egypt and Iraq, which developed the Condor surface-to-surface missile. There is another possibility, essentially negative, which cannot be ignored. A country like Syria could embrace the theory that it would benefit from starting a war with Israel at an earlier date. If Israel is indeed increasing the qualitative gap, why wait for it to develop advanced satellites and an ability to intercept surface-to-surface missiles (by the Arrow missiles it develops with U.S. assistance)? The war in question would not be designed to defeat Israel, but to seize the opportunity of a battlefield confrontation to force the superpowers to bring Israel to the negotiating table in a relatively weak position.

The Soviet Union denounced Israel a long time ago, accusing it of developing long-range missiles. One can deduce from this that if Israel does launch a satellite into space, the Soviet Union's reaction will probably be one of censure. When the foreign press published reports that Israel had conducted an 800 km missile launch experiment, Soviet broadcasts announced that Moscow is very concerned about Israel's actions and that it cannot remain indifferent to what happens in the vicinity of its southern borders. This may have been its way to imply that it would not allow the missiles' range to reach its territory. As will be remembered, Israel reacted by saying that it has no hostile intentions toward the Soviet Union. The Middle East missiles race will probably cause Moscow a certain uneasiness. A short time after the Soviets signed an agreement with the United States for the nonproliferation of medium-range missiles, a few small countries appear to be in the possession—if we are to believe foreign reports—of missiles whose firing range brushes the Soviet frontiers, and even more. Moscow is certain not to remain indifferent to such a development.

There are various possible Soviet reactions. Here are some of them:

1. Grant the Arabs a similar satellite and missile ability, or free satellite services.

2. Propose a settlement to the United States, similar to the conclusion of local conflicts, aimed at pressuring both Israel and the Arabs into restraining their missile and satellite race.

3. Hold talks with Israel regarding the restrictions it will voluntarily impose on itself in this race.

4. Hit an Israel satellite with weapons, after accusing it of damaging international security.

Moscow's reactions depend largely on Washington's attitude to the launching of an Israeli satellite.

Although the United States is now up to its elbows in the presidential elections, Shultz' recent speech and his signals to Israel show that even in such a situation, it does not totally ignore the Middle East. In my opinion, the American reaction could be mixed, varying from criticism to understanding acceptance. On the one hand, there will probably be understanding for Israel's efforts to improve its power of deterrence, particularly if this technology can be instrumental in promoting territorial settlements in the framework of a peace agreement. If this is the case, why not assist Israel indirectly in furthering its technology, which will in turn enhance the qualitative disparity in its favor? Incidentally, the reports that Washington takes an absolutely negative view of Israel's requests for assistance with information from satellites if it is threatened, are far from being true. On the other hand, the United States can say that such a move on the part of Israel is liable to accelerate the arms race in the Middle East, which has been increasing in any event. The Americans will probably demand to know why the launch had to take place now, when Washington is at the height of its efforts to restrict and locate the sale of Chinese missiles to Syria and other Arab countries. In this case, a different reaction is also possible.

Voices may be heard demanding an investigation under the pretext that the aid to Israel serves for plans which are opposed to the U.S. stance. A lot depends on who resides in the White House next year.

**Sharon: Economic Attache Will Go to Warsaw**
*TA2009124788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Israel will soon send a permanent economic attache to its legation in Warsaw, Ari'el Sharon, minister of industry and trade, told the head of the Polish Interest Office in Israel. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the Polish representative told Minister Sharon during the Jerusalem meeting that his country is satisfied with the results of Sharon's visit to Warsaw and is interested in a breakthrough in economic relations between the two countries. The Polish representative wished Israel good luck in its space program.

**Peres: Relations With CSSR 'On a Low Flame'**
*TA2009130288 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Sep 88 p 2*

[Report by political correspondent Yaqir Tzur]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, yesterday said he believes that, following in Hungary's and Poland's footsteps, relations will soon resume between Israel and Czechoslovakia, although they will be kept, as he put it, "on a low flame." Peres made these remarks in reply to a question during a tour of villages in the Triangle. Over the weekend the spokesman of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry had announced Czechoslovakia's wish to conduct official talks with Israel and its intention to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East. Peres also confirmed that thorough contacts had been held with the Czechoslovaks over a possible visit by him to Prague, but ultimately the visit did not take place.

**W. Bank Leaflet Attacks Moderate PLO Leaders**
*TA2009124088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Sep 88 p 2*

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Fatah leaflets, which surprisingly attack the leaders of the organization including Abu Sharif and by insinuation Abu Iyad [Khalaf Salah], were distributed in the West Bank yesterday. The leaflets also spell out the names of the leading Fatah supporters in the territories who support the political solution in the PLO. It is possible that the Abu Jihad group and the Al-Shabibah are behind the leaflet. The leaflet says that the concept of "recognition of Israel" does not exist in the Fatah lexicon and that the Fatah will never agree to give up an inch of Palestinian land nor ever desert the armed struggle. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 20 Sep 88 adds: "In Qalqilyah, leaflets from local popular committees appeared yesterday for the first time since the army's big operation there about 2 weeks ago. Over the past several days Beersheba residents have found Leaflet No 28 of the Islamic Resistance Movement from Gaza in their mailboxes. The police are investigating."]

**Airport, Roads Bordering Territories Closed**
*TA2009125888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Ben Gurion airport was closed at noon and traffic will be resumed tomorrow night. Only emergency teams have been left at the airport's control tower, and security, and fire fighting stations. There will also be a stewardess at the tourist office to deal with tourists who might turn up by mistake. All the roads between the territories and the Green Line are closed from now until 2000 local time tomorrow.

**Memad: Jews' 'Welfare' Before Territorial Hold**
*TA2009172788 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 20 Sep 88 p 2*

[Excerpts] In a central convention of activists at the Moriah Hotel in Jerusalem, Memad Chairman Rabbi Yehuda 'Mital presented the main points of his movement's platform. [passage omitted]

The movement's political chapter states that Memad is not subject to any one political concept or plan. As the political and security situation is a dynamic entity, the party does not favor the approach that our loyalty to Eretz Yisra'el demands a full control over the entire territory under any condition. The platform stresses that "our moral and political stands will be determined by the principle that the welfare of the Jewish people takes precedence over our hold on the entire Eretz Yisra'el. If the situation demands it, we will be ready to make painful and difficult decisions." [passage omitted]

**'Uprising' Spurs Jews To Settle in Territories**
*TA2009120488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Sep 88 p 2*

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Leaders of Jewish settlements in the West Bank said this week that the Palestinian uprising has spurred more families to join ideologically based settlements in the heart of the area, and that current housing there is inadequate to absorb the influx of new arrivals. During a press tour organized by the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district to several communities, newly arrived settlers said the uprising had pushed them to move to the West Bank, where they feel their presence is now especially critical. [passage omitted]

Uri Ari'el, secretary-general of the council, said there were no empty apartments to be found in West Bank settlements, and that only a few people had left the communities since the start of the uprising. Arye Ofni, deputy head of the Samaria regional council, said the 31 settlements in his district had rebounded from an initial slump at the start of the uprising. "During the first four months there was a kind of halt. We didn't know how to deal with it, people spoke of leaving. But in the last four

months the number of departures has been virtually nil, and there is a rise in the absorption of new families." The uprising has given a boost to ideologically motivated settlement, Ofni said.

Ofni showed figures indicating a 24 percent growth in the number of schoolchildren in Samaria settlements over the past year, which he said was an indicator of the growth in population. Pinhas Wallerstein, the head of the Binyamin regional council, said there had been a 14 percent rise in schoolchildren in his district, and a 10 percent rise in population. Uri Ari'el estimated the total number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank at 74,000, compared with 3,000 in the Gaza Strip. He said settlement efforts were aimed at expanding settlements and creating geographic blocs of neighbouring communities which would receive common community services, such as schooling health care, etc. [passage omitted]

## Educational Centers Closed; 7 Said Wounded

*TA2009114888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Sep 88 pp 1, 12*

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Civil Administration continued its drive against alternative Palestinian education, shutting down 14 educational centres in Nabulus which provided supplementary courses to secondary school students. Sources in Nabulus claimed the centres had been in regular operation before the military government closed down West Bank schools, and were not newly-opened during the uprising. A Civil Administration spokesman said classes at the centres violated an order closing down all educational institutions in the West Bank until 1 October. In other incidents yesterday in the West Bank, Palestinian sources reported four persons wounded in Nabulus, including a 15-year-old boy, and three in Janin, including a 22-year-old man who was shot in the chest and stomach. The IDF confirmed one person wounded in Nabulus, and one in Janin. Another youth was wounded in Qalqilyah, where troops imposed a curfew following clashes with rioters. Sources in Nabulus said a man from neighbouring Huwwarah who was considered a "collaborator" with the Israeli authorities was injured Sunday when he was hit by the driver of a stolen truck, while riding his motorbike. The man's home was later torched.

The Tulkarm refugee camp was under curfew for the 18th day, and curfews were also in force at the Al-Am'ari and Qalandiyah camps, and at 'Azzun, near Qalqilyah. The villages of Kafr Malik, Burqa' and Bayt Rima were closed off by the IDF following unrest.

## East Jerusalem Schools 'Gradually' Reopening

*TA2009095688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Sep 88 p 2*

[Report by Ben Lynfield]

[Text] Some 1,500 Arab third graders began classes yesterday as part of a process by which the 31 Arab schools in East Jerusalem are being opened, grade by grade, in staggered groups. Two or three grades will be opened every week or so until the process is completed with the opening of high schools around October 10, according to Mikha'el Gal, education director for the municipality. Arab kindergarten, first and second grade pupils started classes, like Jewish children, at the beginning of the month. "We don't want to open the schools with the help of the police, so we decided instead to do it gradually," Gal told THE JERUSALEM POST. "We're hoping that in this way a spirit conducive to learning will develop." The schools were shut last year from February until May because attendance fell sharply.

**King on Palestinians' Future, Negotiations**
*JN2009200488 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] His majesty the king has said he hopes the Israelis will realize that there has to be the facing of reality in the Middle East. His majesty added that it is about time for the Israelis to come up with their contribution to the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region. His majesty said this cannot happen without recognizing the fact that there are problems affecting the Palestinian people on the Palestinian soil.

His majesty's remarks were made during an interview with THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR's cable television. In answer to a question on whether Jordan would revoke its decision of severing legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, his majesty said under no conditions will Jordan alter its stands unless the Palestinians themselves wish it to do so. If that is the case, his majesty said, Jordan had indicated it was ready and willing to go to an international conference in a joint delegation.

His majesty said he did not believe there was a Jordanian option. What there was, his majesty explained, is a country committed to the cause of a just and durable peace and will continue to be committed to that cause and objective. As far as the Palestinian dimension is concerned, his majesty added, the Palestinian problem is in the hands of the Palestinians.

His majesty continued by saying that he believed that following the Jordanian announcement on the West Bank, the Palestinians and the PLO would realize for the first time that their responsibilities are in their hands.

His majesty expressed the belief that Palestinians have really never had the chance to make up their minds or address their problems and assume responsibilities for themselves. His majesty said there is no quarter to blame but the PLO if they fail to make up their minds and assume their responsibilities.

In answer to a question on whether a new Palestinian leadership will emerge inside the West Bank if the PLO continues to equivocate, his majesty said he believed it will be inevitable that there will be a Palestinian body that will represent the Palestinian people adequately and live up to their hopes and expectations.

His majesty went on to say that the PLO claims to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it is going to be up to it to prove that this is the case. It can only do so if it really takes into account all the hopes and aspirations of its constituency.

Ideally, his majesty said, it should be a simultaneous kind of recognition—Israel recognizing the Palestinians and their rights on their soil and, on the other hand, the Palestinians acting in a way that would recognize Israel's right to exist.

His majesty said that if there is no negotiated solution and if the Palestinian uprising continues, the area will be a turbulent one and it certainly would be threatening and menacing to all who live in that area.

His majesty recalled that he had referred to the problem many times by saying that there is a certain point when all hope is lost. And if that ever happens, then it is downhill into an abyss and into a very dangerous area. Nobody can forecast what can happen.

Peace and security in the area, his majesty noted, can only be the result of peace and justice and the feeling of people on both sides that they have got something to live with and to protect and nurture.

## Al-Jumayyil 'Unexpectedly' Leaves for Damascus

### Departs for Damascus

*NC2109102688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] We begin our news summary with an important report from the newsdesk.

Dear listeners: We have just learned that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil unexpectedly left for Damascus on board a helicopter some time ago. We do not have any information on the circumstances surrounding this unexpected departure for Damascus nor on the contacts with preceded it.

Therefore, according to the latest information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the president of the Republic left for Damascus to meet with President al-Asad, most probably. We will provide you with the most prominent reports and details as soon as we receive them.

### Others 'Summoned' to Damascus

*NC2109104888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1037 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] A new report from our news desk: We follow up our report on the president's arrival in Damascus, where he was received at Al-Mazzah Airport by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, some time ago. President al-Jumayyil is accompanied by former Minister Elie Salim and Ambassador Ghassan al-Tuwayni.

According to the reports, the Syrian president has summoned Acting Prime Minister al-Huss, Chamber of Deputies Speaker al-Husayni, Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir, and Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi. All of them have left for Damascus, where a meeting is currently under way between the Lebanese and Syrian presidents.

### Syria's al-Khuli Visits, Meets Franjiyah

*NC2109101688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1002 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] We have just been informed that [Syrian] Major General Muhammad al-Khuli arrived in Ihdin aboard a military helicopter at 1245 today. Immediately upon arrival, Maj Gen al-Khuli held a meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

### Junblatt Denounces Bkirki Meeting 20 Sep

*JN2009134588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this morning received lawyer Nabih Birri, leader of Amal movement. They discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, a number of Lebanese deputies visited Damascus today. Those known so far among them are: Salih (al-Suqayf), Rashid al-Sulh, Jamil Zibdah, Zaki Mazbudi, Talal al-Mar'adi, Hasan al-Rifa'i, Anwar al-Sabah, 'Ali al-'Abdallah, Munir al-Khatib, and 'Abd al-Mawla Amhaj. A number of Lebanese Nationalist parties' leaders are continuing their meetings and talks in the Syrian capital.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt held a press conference attended by large number of Arab and foreign correspondents. He strongly attacked today's meeting in Bkirki, and announced his rejection of any candidate that may be nominated in this meeting. He also sharply attacked Maronite Patriarch Butrus Nasrallah Sfayr and General Michel 'Awn, commander in chief of the Lebanese Army. He said that as long as the patriarch insists on his position, he exposes all Christians in the east to danger.

He added: Let the patriarch remember President Hafiz al-Asad's favor to the Christians in Lebanon; let him remember that [former] President Franjiyah was the head of the Lebanese Front, and that Mikha'il al-Dahir is a genuine Maronite.

He said: We reject this flagrant interference in politics by the patriarchate. If Nasrallah Sfayr insists on his stand, we frankly say that we are with an Islamic republic, Junblatt said.

Junblatt was also sharply critical of the Army's interference in politics. He said that when the army becomes concerned about democracy, then democracy will have no value. He addressed General 'Awn saying: Camille Sham'un was appointed by British intelligence; President Fu'ad Shihab by President 'Abd al-Nasir and the Americans; Ilyas Sarkis by Syria; Amin and Bashir al-Jumayyil by Israeli and U.S. guns. He said that 'Awn's objections are unacceptable, and Lebanon is in need of neither Noriega nor Pinochet. Junblatt added: If the choice is that of Lebanese sovereignty the Israeli way, then we frankly say that we are with the partition of Lebanon.

Junblatt accused 'Arafat of sending booby-trapped cars and suspicious elements to assassinate Syrian soldiers in Beirut streets. In answer to a question, Junblatt said that rejecting candidate Mikha'il al-Dahir will lead us to two governments. About Al-Huss government, he said: We have no problem, Bayt al-Din is ready, and the government palace in Beirut is ready. We will appoint ministers in vacant positions. When asked whether he is expecting a return to the language of guns, Junblatt said: It seems Bkirki wants this.

### Further on News Conference

*NC2009140988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt held a news conference at the party office in Damascus at noon today during which he attacked Patriarch Sfayr, the Bkirki meeting,

and Army Commander Michel 'Awn. Junblatt said that by persisting in his position, Patriarch Sfayr will expose all the Christians in the entire east to danger. He added: Let Patriarch Sfayr remember the favor which President Hafiz al-Asad has done for the Christians in Lebanon, and let him remember that President Franjiyah was the head of the Lebanese front and that Mikha'il al-Dahir is a genuine Maronite. We reject this blatant intervention in politics by the patriarchate, he said, and if Patriarch Sfayr persists in his stand, we say clearly that we will support an Islamic republic.

Junblatt strongly attacked the Army commander for his intervention in political affairs, maintaining that when the Army becomes concerned for democracy, democracy will no longer have value. Junblatt added: Camille Sham'un was appointed by British intelligence; President Fu'ad Shihab was appointed by President 'Abd al-Nasir and the Americans; Ilyas Sarkis was appointed by Syria; and Amin and Bashir al-Jumayyil were appointed by Israeli and U.S. guns.

He said that Michel 'Awn's protests are unacceptable and rejected. Lebanon does not need a Noriega or a Pinochet. If Lebanon's sovereignty depends on Israel's desires, we say clearly that we support the division of Lebanon.

Answering a question, Junblatt said: Rejection of candidate Mikha'il al-Dahir will result in the establishment of two governments.

Regarding Prime Minister Salim al-Huss' government, he said: We have no problem with that. The Bayt al-Din Palace is ready, and the government house in Beirut is ready. We will appoint ministers to fill the vacant posts.

Asked if he expects a return of the language of the gun, Junblatt said: It seems that Bkirki wants a return to the language of the gun.

Answering another question, Junblatt accused 'Arafat of sending booby-trapped cars and suspect persons to assassinate Syrian soldiers on Beirut streets.

### Damascus Reports Conference

*JN2009184788 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of public works, transport, and tourism and head of the PSP, said that Lebanon is at a crossroads: Either it remains united and Arab and we choose a president who may be able to save Lebanon from the whirlwind of the civil war and set the necessary reform bases and clear and special relations with Syria, or we go into the stage of partition. In a press conference he held today in Damascus attended by a large number of newspaper and news agency correspondents, he said: We support the unity of Lebanon. However, if we are given the choice between the unity of Lebanon, its independence, and sovereignty, according to the Israeli way; that is by wrenching Lebanon away from its Arab surroundings, then in this case, we support partition so that there will be an Arab region for us to liberate what remains of Lebanon.

Junblatt then added: Lebanon's independence has no value if this is not genuinely and fully linked to Arabism, specifically with Syria. Lebanon's independence along Israeli lines is rejected because it means partition and what results from that. I hope we will not reach that stage.

Junblatt referred to the dubious moves seeking to drown Lebanon in the whirlwinds of partition by saying: If some are wagering on a new Baghdad pact, we tell this group: Just as Nuri al-Sa'id fell in the past, sooner or later those following his line will fall, along with the likes of Saddam Husayn and all the finances and arms which he is pushing into the eastern section of Beirut.

On 'Arafat's role, Junblatt said: It is better for 'Arafat to take care of the uprising instead of sending booby-trapped cars and suspect elements to kill the Syrian Arab soldiers in the streets of Beirut.

In answer to a question on the possibility of military action by the Israeli enemy in case a quorum is not achieved in the next parliamentary session, Junblatt said: We do not rule out any possibility. In the past Israel interfered in Lebanon and reached Beirut. But it turned back defeated, thanks to the Lebanese national resistance, Syrian Arab support, and national steadfastness.

### Christian Deputies Issue Statement After Meeting

*NC2009124488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Statement issued by Christian deputies following a meeting under the chairmanship of Patriarch Sfayr in Bkirki; read by Deputy Edmund Rizq—live]

[Text] In response to an invitation by His Beautitude Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, patriarch of Antioch and the Levant, a meeting was held under his chairmanship in Bkirki at 1000 on Tuesday 20 September 1988. The meeting was attended by 27 Christian deputies and some bishops and heads of monastic orders. The conferees reviewed the general situation, particularly the question of electing a new president. After the discussions, they issued the following statement:

1. They declare their adherence to a united Lebanon as a free homeland and a sovereign independent state for all its sons, without classification or discrimination.

2. They stress their support for the unity of the Chamber of Deputies, the mother institution in their free democratic system which crystallizes the unity of the Lebanese and their determination to confront everything that exposes the homeland to the dangers of partition and [Palestinian] settlement.

3. They emphasize the need to elect a new president of the republic within the fixed constitutional deadline; that is, by 22 September.

4. They demand that an atmosphere of security, freedom, and democracy be provided in which the election process can take place. They also demand effective measures to guarantee such an atmosphere. They address themselves to his excellency the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies requesting him to hold the election session at the chamber's present premises in Al-Mansur Palace, particularly since the circumstances in which it was chosen as the premises of the legislative power have not changed.

5. They have decided to continue their meetings and expand consultations with all their parliamentary colleagues in order to define stands and choose a new president of the Republic.

6. The conferees have formed a follow-up committee to establish the necessary contacts with the quarters concerned, communicate their stand to these quarters, and cooperate with them to rescue Lebanon from its current tribulation. The follow-up committee consists of Deputies Michel Sasin, Joseph Skaf, Habib Kayruz, Shafiq Badr, and Fu'ad Tahinah.

### Ja'ja' Says Lebanese Forces Would Back Iddih

*NC2009193388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic*
*1845 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' has said that certain quarters are trying to scare us to get their way. But, he added, we will not be frightened. Ja'ja' said: The Syrians proposed the name of Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir during their talks with the Americans as an alternative to former President Sulayman Franjiyah. The Americans passed this proposal on to us and told us that rejection of such a proposal would spell disaster for the country and trigger a military and political crisis. We have heard such humbug before. Lebanon will remain steadfast in the face of Syrian pressures and attempts to grab the Presidency.

Ja'ja' voiced the belief that the Americans are not convinced that Al-Dahir is a proper candidate for the Presidency, because they know that he is not acceptable to us. Ja'ja' said: If the Lebanese Forces had to choose Sulayman Franjiyah, Mikha'il al-Dahir, or Raymond Iddih, our choice would be Iddih to the very end. Many deputies, Ja'ja' said, share this view.

Ja'ja' said that proper circumstances to hold the elections can be arranged. He stressed that the elections session should be held in Mansur Palace and that free voting should decide the new president. The insistence of Al-Najmah Square as site for the session, he pointed out, conceals a desire to stymie the elections.

Ja'ja' said that the Lebanese Forces support without reservations any decisions made at Bkirki meetings, noting that Patriarch Sfayr is playing a very important role.

### Army 'Ready To Assume Political Power'

*NC2009120188 Paris AFP in English*
*1149 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Kuwait, September 20 (AFP)—The commander-in-chief of the Lebanese Army has said his troops are ready to assume political power in the country if parliament fails to elect a new president by Friday, a newspaper reported here Tuesday.

General Michel 'Awn told the Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA' that the army was the only Lebanese institution around which the country could unite and that his forces were "ready to enter into conflict with all forces opposed to it."

He said; the army had taken steps "to fill a potential institutional vacuum after September 23," the date on which President Amin al-Jumayyil's six-year mandate expires.

The Lebanese parliament is scheduled to convene on September 22 to choose a successor to Mr. al-Jumayyil, but there are fears that the assembly, as it did on August 18, will fail reach a quorum and that a vote will be impossible.

The country's Christian leaders, as well as the army, have contested a U.S.-Syrian agreement that reportedly backs the candidacy of Mikha'il al-Dahir.

The Lebanese Forces Christian militia, strongly anti-Syrian, have joined the army in opposing the candidacy of Mr. al-Dahir, who they fear would introduce political reforms—backed by Syria and its Lebanese Moslem allies—to reduce the political power of the Christian community.

General 'Awn, who says he is not opposed to Mr. al-Dahir but to the manner in which he was "designated" as a candidate by Syria and the United States, told AL-ANBA' that armies often step in to safeguard national security when political solutions are not forthcoming.

### Maronites in North Withdraw Recognition of Sfayr

*NC2109074088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
*0715 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] A statement signed by the grouping of Maronite representatives and citizens in northern Lebanon is being distributed in the North. The statement declares that Patriarch Sfayr no longer represents the Maronites of the North and urges the Maronite clergy in the area to leave immediately. The statement explains that the Maronite citizenship in the North will elect a new

patriarch and notes that all the estates of the Maronite Patriarchate and its monastic orders will be nationalized and restored to the poor and needy.

### Franjiyah Group: No Link to Anti-Sfayr Statement

*NC2109094388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Bishop Bulus Emile Sa'adah, the patriarch's representative in the Al-Batrun and Zgharta areas, has responded to a statement by the grouping of the representatives of Maronites in the north. He affirmed that this statement, which was issued today and distributed by known parties at checkpoints in Al-Madfun, has no connection with all the citizens of northern Lebanon, particularly the Giants [former President Sulayman Franjiyah's militia].

In a telephone conversation between Bkirki [seat of the Maronite Patriarchate] and leaders and officials of the Giants, the latter officials totally denounced all that appeared in the said statement and the people behind it. They saluted His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr's honorable patriotic stands.

### Sham'un Protests U.S. Charge's Actions

*NC2009130088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un has sent a letter to Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu al-Lama' protesting the actions of U.S. Charge d'affaires Daniel Simpson and the remarks he made yesterday. He requested the Foreign Ministry to ask the U.S. Administration whether such actions reflect the views of the U.S. Administration, particularly since they are contrary to diplomatic practice.

### Amal Reportedly Sinks Israeli Gunboat

*NC2109110488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Israeli gunboats have been cruising off the Tyre coast since 1915 yesterday, opening fire in the direction of the coast.

The gunboats were engaged by the Amal Movement, which sank an Israeli gunboat around midnight. Israeli helicopters are flying over the area to rescue the gunboat [as heard]. Israeli gunboats are firing intensively on the coast. Groups of the Amal Movement are engaging the gunboats with various kinds of weapons.

### Israeli Planes Fly Over Southern Areas, Camp

*NC2109095588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0951 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft flew reconnaissance missions over areas in the South this morning, particularly over Al-Rashidiyah camp.

### Hizballah, Kurdish Officials View Iraqi Attacks

*NC2109055088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Hizballah has announced that two of its leaders, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Husayn al-Usawi, have met with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in Damascus. Discussions dealt with the Iraqi attacks on the Kurds and the need to continue the struggle until the Baghdad government is brought down.

### Al-Jumayyil Arrives in Damascus, Meets Al-Asad

*JN2109113288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1118 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Damascus at 1330 today. President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of those receiving him at the airport. He was also received by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and a number of ministers.

Following the reception ceremonies, the two presidents left for the presidential palace where they held a meeting attended by Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Lebanese president's advisers Ghassan Tuwayni and Dr Elie Salim. Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil then held a closed meeting at 1400 today.

### Monte Carlo Notes Arrival

*JN2109115588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Damascus this afternoon aboard a Lebanese military helicopter which carried him from his summer residence in Bikfayya, northern Beirut, to the Al-Mazzah military airport in northern Damascus. President al-Jumayyil is accompanied by his political adviser Elie Salim.

President al-Asad received President al-Jumayyil at the airport and the talks began immediately afterward.

Presidents al-Asad and al-Jumayyil had a telephone conversation at about 0100 local time today. President al-Jumayyil was talking from his summer residence in Bikfayya.

In another development, Husayn al-Husayni and Salim al-Huss arrived [in Damascus] and met with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The meeting was in progress at the time of this report. Former President Sulayman Franjiyah and presidential candidate Mikha'il al-Dahir are also expected to arrive here.

In a related development, Deputy Nabih al-Bizri told our radio a short while ago that the elections session will be held tomorrow and that Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir is the strongest candidate. He added that the United States stressed the need to hold the elections session as scheduled at the Chamber of Deputies Building in Al-Najmah Square tomorrow.

The vice president this morning met with Deputies Nabih al-Bizri, Tawfiq 'Assaf, Farid Jubran, and Husayn Mansur. Following the meeting, Deputy Farid Jubran told our radio the talks dealt with the presidential elections and said: It has transpired that Syria is doing its best to create a positive atmosphere in favor of Lebanon and its people in the first place. He added: We can only thank Syria and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for his good offices in this regard, that is, in the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese.

### Talks Begin

*NC2109115888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] The most prominent political event today is the Lebanese-Syrian summit meeting between Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, which followed a telephone call from President al-Jumayyil to President al-Asad. This is President al-Jumayyil's first visit to Damascus since January 1986. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad received President al-Jumayyil at Al-Mazzah Airport and talks began betweedn them immediately thereafter. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also is attending the talks.

Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni had left for the Syrian capital earlier. Former President Sulayman Franjiyah, Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi, and also Deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir also left for Damascus. Minister Nabih Birri also will leave for Damascus this afternoon.

Major General Muhammd al-Khuli arrived in Ihdin earlier today as an envoy of the Syrian leadership and accompanied former President Franjiyah to Damascus. Al-Khuli said: So far nothing is clear. We hope the election will take place.

Meanwhile, President al-Jumayyil received U.S. Charge d'affaires Daniel Simpson today.

A meeting began between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Chamber Speaker al-Husayni and Acting Prime Minister al-Huss in Damascus some time ago.

### Ba'th Party Delegation Leaves for Cuba 20 Sep

*JN2009120888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] A party delegation led by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning left Damascus for Havana at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee.

While in Cuba, the delegation will hold party and political talks and meetings with officials from the party and state in Cuba in order to consult and exchange viewpoints on different issues and developments of interest to both parties. The delegation will also discuss relations between the two friendly countries—Syria and Cuba.

The delegation will also participate in the eighth general conference of the Arab-American Institutions Union which will be held the day after tomorrow in the Cuban capital.

**Commentary on Lebanon's 'Tampering' Minority**
*JN1909143288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Sep 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The constitutional deadline to elect a new Lebanese president is approaching fast. Meanwhile, some people who tamper with the Lebanese issue and the Lebanese citizens' interests are also changing their stands quickly. These tamperers—a small minority amid an overwhelming majority—do not adopt a consistent stand, will not adhere tomorrow to what they declare today, and will not agree tomorrow on what they demand today.

By altering their stands and through their tampering and intransigence, these tamperers not only stake their own interests and personal destinies but also the fate of a country. They tamper with the future of a state, risk the interests of a people, and search for fire in the ashes. The Lebanese citizen neither knows what these tamperers want or demand nor is he aware of where they are leading him and his country. These tamperers declare things contrary to their harbored intentions and demand things they do not actually want. They also do not adhere to their remarks and retreat from their previous demands once the latter are met.

Today, these tamperers do not approve of this or that candidate. Moreover, if a candidate whom they did not previously reject is proposed, they become furious and reject any proposed candidate designed to end the impasse in which they have placed their country and to initiate national reconciliation. It seems these tamperers imagine they were born and granted, apart from the remainder of the Lebanese people, an exclusive right, prestige, and divine trusteeship over all other Lebanese citizens. They talk about Lebanon and their adherence to Lebanon and to every inch of it. But when developments take place in the direction of safeguarding and enhancing Lebanon's territorial integrity and the unity of its people, the actions and moves of these tamperers proceed in the direction of aborting any reconciliatory, unionist step.

They also talk about the Constitution and its provisions as well as unwritten norms, but their actions have obstructed legitimacy in the areas where they are present, impeded the powers of the government, and prevented the constitutional institutions, including the Chamber of Deputies, from carrying out their constitutional and national duties to elect a new president of the republic.

They talk too much about freedom and democracy. But their freedom and democracy are bizarre. Their concept of freedom, as they exercise it in their districts, means confiscating the freedom of others and imposing their will on the majority in their districts and throughout Lebanon. Their idea of democracy is to muzzle others and claim, minority that they are, to speak for the overwhelming majority against its will. They see freedom and democracy to be obstructing a parliamentary meeting to vote a president into office. They talk about their true Lebanese identity but work for suicidal projects to partition and fragment the country at the behest of quarters from overseas and behind the truce lines. They are pursuing projects advancing the interests of the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs. Such projects serve the interests neither of the overwhelming majority of Lebanese nor of the minority, whose interests they want to destroy while stripping it of all that it views as safeguards.

They are seeking the mediation of East and West, but once their appeals are met they turn against the intermediaries and the results. It looks as if they are not interested in bailing Lebanon out of its crisis and putting the country onto the road of national reconciliation, but rather forcing it into possibilities that no Lebanese looks forward to and that run counter to its security, peace, and stability. The overwhelming majority of the Lebanese have shown forbearance toward those tampering with the fate of Lebanon out of their concern for the country's unity, survival, and continued existence as a homeland for all Lebanese.

Time and again, the overwhelming majority has given them a chance to backpedal from their mistakes, adventures, and unpatriotic options. But will the overwhelming Lebanese majority continue to be patient forever toward a tiny, misguided minority tampering with the fate of Lebanon and working to introduce a state of affairs beneficial only to the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs? Those who really care about Lebanon do not seek its demolition. Those who try to portray themselves as Samsons will eventually discover, in the face of the will of the Lebanese, that they will end up pulling the temple down on themselves alone, not on the rest of their countrymen. This is because Lebanon will continue to exist, since this is the will of the Lebanese. In the final analysis, the majority will impose its will of protecting Lebanon, its unity, existance, and national interests. Those who are out to force their dictatorship on the majority will come to regret it.

## Afghanistan

### Prime Minister's Talks With Gorbachev Noted

*LD2009220588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] This afternoon Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, who is undertaking an official and friendly visit to the USSR, met M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the Kremlin.

A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Dobrynin, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in this meeting.

The meeting ended in a sincere and friendly atmosphere.

### Najibullah Urges Mass Media Improvement

*LD1909221288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Sep 88*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met with the leadership of the Ministry of Information and Culture in Gol Khanah Palace this evening.

Speaking on the tasks of the mass media and cultural organs during the implementation of national reconciliation, he critically assessed the condition of cultural organs and mass media and explained the country's political and economic situation and the national reconciliation process. He underlined existing shortcomings in this field.

By identifying the future duties of the cultural organs and mass media to reflect the reality of people's lives and the policy of national reconciliation, Esteemed Najibullah stressed the need to improve the press and cultural organs to serve peace and the people's prosperity so that the truth about life in Afghanistan will be correctly reported.

The president of Afghanistan asked the leadership and and officials of the Ministry of Information and Culture to take serious actions to alleviate the existing defects and make concerted efforts to improve their work and coordination in order to expand effectively the activities of the cultural organs and mass media and to organize consistently publishing, broadcasting and cultural matters.

Minister of Information and Culture Ahmad Bashir Roygar assured Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, that all Ministry of Information and Culture officials will strive harder to overcome existing defects and shortcomings and to enhance the role of the mass media and cultural organs in implementing national reconciliation.

### Commentary on Pakistan's 'Sinister Plot'

*LD2009174988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 19 Sep 88*

[By BAKHTAR political commentator]

[Text] There is a substantial amount of proof pointing to the danger of direct military intervention in the Republic of Afghanistan. Facts about Pakistan's involvement in anti-Afghan combat operations lead to such conclusions.

Over the past months, subversive activities of the Pakistani Armed Forces have been aimed at intensifying the war in Afghanistan. Soldiers and officers of Pakistan's Armed Forces now directly participate in operations launched by the opponents of the Republic of Afghanistan. They are responsible for planning and organizing the antistate operations.

Moreover, the Pakistani Air Force and artillery are used to ensure the success of these operations in the border areas. Not only do these actions contravene the the Geneva agreements but they indicate a new dimension in Pakistan's attempts to topple the people's government in Afghanistan and establish a government under its suzerainty.

To better understand Pakistan's political strategy vis-a-vis our country, we will cite some facts. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have in their possession a document that proves the participation of Pakistani Armed Forces officers in planning the opposition's operations in Konar, Khowst, Qandahar, and Spin Buldak.

We can provide a number of examples: As many as 12 Pakistani advisers entered the area of Konarha Province on 27 August. At the same time a number of Pakistani and U.S. advisers entered the area of Barikowt on 31 August to construct a bridge across the river.

On the same day, a leader of the extremists, accompanied by a Pakistani and another foreigner, entered Konarha Province to organize antistate military operations. Two Pakistani and two U.S. advisers have recently entered the surrounding areas of Seyyed Karam and the city of Gardeyz to help intensify operations against the residents of the areas and take part in the organization of antistate operations in these areas.

Pakistani troops recently participated in the antistate operation in Asmar along with the forces of the extremists. These operations were backed by artillery fire, and Pakistan provided 500 dinghies to the opposition for crossing the river.

Since 22 August, Pakistani forces have constantly fired artillery against state centers and border posts in coordination with the extremists. Since 22 July, Pakistani Air

Force helicopters and planes have intruded into Afghan airspace, particularly over Asadabad, Asmar, Urgun, Towr Kham, and other areas.

There is proof of the existence of Pakistani troops along with U.S., Arab, and some other countries advisers in various parts of the country such as Ghazni, Herat, Oruzgan, Badakhshan, Takhar, Qandahar, Paktia, Nangarhar, Konarha, Logar, Kapisa, the districts of Panjshir and Bagram of Parvan Province, Laghman, and Nuristan, where they are involved in subversive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan.

These facts can only mean that across the border a sinister plot against free and independent Afghanistan is being devised. Islamabad believes it can push their puppet forces into power and trample upon the dignity and pride of the Afghans.

The hue and cry of Pakistani authorities about the intrusion of Afghan Air Force planes into its airspace and the distorted image Pakistan projects about the violation of the Geneva agreements by the Republic of Afghanistan is fabricated to conceal the danger of military aggression against Afghanistan and to sway international public opinion.

However, one thing should be clear to our compatriots and to those who rule the politics of Pakistan: The free people of Afghanistan have never bowed before foreign enemies. The history of our country is marked by heroic deeds and freedom. And today also, the Republic of Afghanistan has the strength to halt such sinister whims.

The policy of the Republic of Afghanistan is based on the golden principles of peace, peaceful coexistence, and goodneighborliness in keeping with the Geneva agreements.

The Government of Afghanistan acts in accordance with this policy and safeguards its territorial integrity, national sovereignty, independence, and freedom.

### Pakistan's 'Aggressive Policy' Said 'Unacceptable'

*LD2009210688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] For 2 weeks Pakistani authorities have been making deafening cries about the alleged intrusion of Afghan Air Force aircraft and the shooting down of two Afghan aircraft. The allegations were made precisely at the time of the convening of the nonaligned countries foreign ministers' conference in Nicosia.

This hostile campaign by the Pakistani authorities continues on the eve of the next UN General Assembly session. The Pakistani authorities have embarked on hypocritical and demagogic measures in order to continue its anti-Afghan campaign.

News agencies report that the Pakistani authorities recently instructed Afghan opposition groups to gather wreckage of these downed aircraft and take it to Pakistan. News agencies add this is being done to create scenarios on the shooting down of Afghan planes to deceive the public of Pakistan and the world.

Evidence shows that Pakistan, in line with its untrue allegations about the intrusion of Afghan Air Force aircraft into Pakistani airspace and the shooting down of two Afghan Air Forces planes, is trying to use any means available to gain approval for its self-made and unfounded allegations, and is telling lies about its deceptive allegations.

This is not the first time Pakistan has embarked on such hypocrisy on the eve of an important international event by attempting to conceal its interfering and aggressive policy against the Republic of Afghanistan through untrue allegations and accusations.

About 2 months ago, on the eve of the Islamic countries' conference, Pakistani authorities also alleged that 10,000 Soviet troops had returned to Afghanistan and were engaged in military activities in and around Kabul.

This allegation was made by Ziaul Haq, the military dictator of Pakistan, before his death. It was refuted by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Washington a week later. The aims of such false and baseless allegations have now been divulged.

On one hand, Pakistani authorities try to justify their interference and their infringements of the Geneva agreements to provide grounds for more interference in the Republic of Afghanistan.

On the other hand, Pakistan want to draw the attention of the Pakistani people away from Pakistan's internal problems and the revival of democracy in the country and to obtain more modern arms from the United States and other countries by claiming that Pakistan's security is in danger from outside.

Pakistan will not always be able to deceive its people and the world by resorting to methods of hypocrisy. The interfering and aggressive policy of the Pakistani authorities against the Republic of Afghanistan and their hypocrisy regarding internal policies are not only unacceptable to the people of Afghanistan, but also to the people of Pakistan.

### Mujahidin Instructed To Collect Plane Wreckage

*LD2109094288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 20, BAKHTAR—The Pakistani authorities have recently instructed the Afghan opposition groups to collect the pieces and wreckage of the planes which were allegedly shot down and to transfer them into the soil of Pakistan.

By this means, the Pakistani authorities are intending to deceive the public opinion of the people of Pakistan as well as those of the people of the world.

The Pakistani authorities have become embarrassed about its false allegations of the so-called toppling down of two Afghan planes by F-16 Pakistani planes. To give effect to its false allegations, the Pakistani authorities have come out to give some form to its mendacious claims.

Fearing their allegations will be proved a mere lie, the Pakistani authorities have not yet accepted the proposal made by the Afghan side of forming a special delegation comprising the signatories of Geneva agreements under the auspices of UN observers to investigate the Pakistani allegations.

**Senate Discusses Security, Reconciliation**
*LD2009222988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1600 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Excerpt] The general session of the Senate was convened this morning under the chairmanship of Dr Mahmud Habibi.

At this session, according to the agenda, the restoration of national security, the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, and the Geneva accords were discussed.

After a number of the senators gave their views on the issues, the session once again underlined the previous Senate decisions on the need to increase the readiness of the country's Armed Forces to restore security.

The session decided that the issues of restoring security and implementing the Geneva accords would be sent to the Senate Defense and National Security Commission.

This commission was instructed to seriously consider, along with the organs of the Armed Forces, the restoration of peace and security through reconciliation. Their decisions are to be reported to the general session of the Senate. [passage omitted]

**'Extremists' Fire 30 Missiles at Jalalabad**
*LD1909164788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
*1530 GMT 19 Sep 88*

[Text] Extremists fired 30 surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of wards one and two in Jalalabad city yesterday afternoon. Two compatriots were martyred and a house and a Mercedes Benz were destroyed in the attack.

**10 Killed in Rocket Attack on Kabul**
*LD2009174488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1600 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Yesterday the security forces of Nangarhar Province prevented a tragedy which was organized by the extremist elements.

The military section of BIA reports that security forces discovered and defused a powerful bomb which extremists had cleverly placed near the traffic post in the vicinity of the gendarmerie bridge in Jalalabad city in order to disrupt the peaceful life of Jalalabad citizens.

Today at 1730 the criminal extremists fired six surface-to-surface missiles, martyring 10 of our compatriots, including women and children, and injuring 8 people.

According to the BIA military section, the missiles fired by the armed extremists hit the residential areas of (Hesa-e Awal-e Khoshal Maina), (Sarak-e Chehil Metra Baraki Shahrara), the vicinity of Kheyr Khaneh mechanized farm, (Gardana Shohaday-e Salihin), and Parsa School located in (Jow-e Shir) of (Deh Afghanan). They caused material damage in addition to loss of life.

**Arms Cache Near Kabul Destroyed**
*LD2009193588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
*1600 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Yesterday the country's Armed Forces discovered a huge cache of weapons and ammunition made in the United States, Britain, Egypt, China and Italy belonging to extremist groups which recently brought them from Pakistan to Afghanistan in order to carry out subversive acts and to disrupt peace and security. The weapons were hidden in (Tangi-e Lalandar) region, Kabul Province.

A BIA military section correspondent reports the following: [Passage omitted] Since the conclusion of the Geneva accords, residential areas of Kabul and its surroundings have been hit 15 times. They were hit again this evening by 16 surface-to-surface missiles fired by criminal extremist groups.

As a result, over 62 people—including children, women, and elderly persons—were martyred, and 104 injured. A number of houses were partially destroyed or damaged. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces personnel, those reliable guardians of independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, have carried out mopping up operations in order to restore peace and to crush the criminal extremist elements in various regions of the country, including (Tangi-e Lalandar) where a large base of weapons and ammunition was set up with the cooperation of their international supporters.

This base had 650 surface-to-surface missiles, 200 anti-vehicle mines, and 3 antipersonnel mines, all of which were destroyed. Tens of heavy weapons and hundreds of light weapons were seized from 4 other depots. [passage omitted]

**Islamabad Details Recent Mujahidin Successes**
*BK2009154288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly shot down an aircraft near Konduz, a helicopter near Feyzabad in Badakhshan Province, and a jet plane near Paghman area in Kabul Province during the last week. These planes were providing air support to Kabul regime troops in their operations against the mujahidin.

According to another report, the mujahidin attacked the (Bariyamin) and (Sadar) posts in Paktia Province and captured 20 Kabul soldiers and 20 Sten machine guns, 4 heavy machine guns, 2 mortars, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Eight Kabul soldiers were killed in this operation.

A large number of Kabul regime troops have also been killed in the mujahidin's ongoing operations near Qandahar.

**Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Noted**
*BK2109092788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Latest reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have besieged the headquarters of many provinces and have intensified their operations in Kabul. Fierce fighting is going on in the provincial centers of Terin Kowt, (Mashparagan), Qandahar, Jalalabad, Chakhcharan and Gardeyz.

Talukan, the headquarters of Takhar Province, which is near the Soviet border, is directly under the control of the mujahidin.

Kabul administration planes have damaged several buildings in the city and many people have sought refuge in nearby villages. The mujahidin have further tightened their siege on Gardeyz, the provincial capital of Paktia.

Another report says the mujahidin launched simultaneous attacks on (Bariyamin) and (Tabai) posts in Paktia Province recently, capturing the posts along with 20 soldiers of the Kabul regime.

## Bangladesh

**Embassy Staff in Rangoon To Return 21 Sep**
*BK2009130888 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] The nonessential staff of Bangladesh mission in Rangoon and their dependents will arrive in Dhaka on Wednesday [21 September] by a special flight.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the government is sending an aircraft of Bangladesh Biman to the Burmese capital for this purpose. The flight will also bring with it members of the Nepalese, Egyptian, and Australian missions in Rangoon.

The flight will carry some emergency provisions for the personnel of the Bangladesh mission, who will stay there.

The nonessential personnel and members of their families in Bangladesh consulate in Akyab will use surface routes to reach Bangladesh.

**Pakistani President's Emissary Arrives 20 Sep**
*BK2009131488 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Pakistan's federal minister for health, Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, arrived in Dhaka today as the special envoy of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to express solidarity with the catastrophic flood [as heard] that hit Bangladesh.

The health minister, Mohammad Abdul Munim, received Mr Bijrani and the three members of his delegation at the airport. The leader of the delegation, Mr Bijrani, told newsmen that they have come to assess how best they can help and assist Bangladesh in its hour of trial.

The delegation will visit flood-affected areas during its 3-day stay in Bangladesh. The Pakistani envoy said that the floods in Bangladesh have caused tremendous sympathy in Pakistan.

President Ishaq had immediately announced a contribution of 20 million taka for relief assistance and also set up a flood relief fund.

## India

**Gandhi Visits Punjab; Requests All-Party Meeting**
*BK2109091988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] The prime minister has said that he is prepared to talk to anyone for solving the Punjab issue. Addressing a public meeting in Jullundhur today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that he will call a meeting of leaders of different political parties after his return to New Delhi to hammer out a solution to the problem.

He said that unfortunately, after the death of Sant Harchand Singh Longowal there is no leader of his stature who can mobilize the people behind him. Punjab, he said, is fighting India's battle against terrorism and he assured the Center's full support to the state administration and the people in their fight.

Earlier, addressing a large gathering while laying the foundation stone of a 240 crore rupees paper mill in the historic town of Goindwal in Amritsar District this morning, Mr Gandhi said no doubt religion is a very important part of our daily life, but what is more important is the need to keep it free from politics. This is all the more important for modern Punjab where communal harmony has been under great stress for some time.

Mr Gandhi said Punjab has always played a vital role in the defense and service of the country, both during the pre-independence and post-independence periods. He urged the police and the security forces operating in Punjab to deal firmly with the terrorists and at the same time show love and affection to the peace-loving people.

He asked the state administration to lay more emphasis on the welfare schemes and redressal of the grievances of the people. Mr Gandhi said elections in Punjab could not be held for some time due to the prevailing law and order situation. But now the administration should make a beginning by holding the panchayat [local bodies] elections.

AIR special correspondent, P.J. Trehan, covering the prime minister's functions reports that Mr Gandhi was given full-throated ovation by the people when he unveiled black marble foundation stone set in the red brick wall. Mr Gandhi was repeatedly cheered by the gathering during his 30-minute speech.

Welcoming the prime minister, the state governor, Mr Sidhartha Shanker Ray, said once terrorism is substantially controlled there is no doubt that the state will become one of the most prosperous in the country.

On his arrival at Adampur airport, Mr Gandhi was given a warm reception. Beside the state governor, members of parliament from the state and the senior Congress-I leaders were present. Mr Gandhi was accompanied by the union ministers, Mr P. Chidambaram, Mr Jagdish Tytler, and Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.

**Defense Spokesman on Recent Shooting in Kashmir**
*BK2109033488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman said in Srinagar that India has offered Pakistan a proposal for joint survey of disputed points along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir.

The offer was made some time back in a bid to resolve the border disputes peacefully. The spokesman said Pakistan has so far not responded to the offer.

Commenting on the exchange of fire in the Kargil sector last week between Indian and Pakistani troops, the spokesman said it followed a dispute over claims of the two sides over a piece of land. He said the issue has since been resolved.

**Government Withdraws Cases Against 138 in Punjab**
*BK2009161988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] The government is to withdraw cases against 138 under-trials lodged in Jodhpur central jail. They were arrested 4 years ago from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. A press release issued in New Delhi today says that after a further review of their cases, it has been decided to move the additional special court, Jodhpur, for their release.

The public prosecutor has been asked to file necessary applications immediately and obtain orders of the court. Out of the 138 under-trials who are to be released, one is absconding.

It may be recalled that the government withdrew cases in respect of 45 similar under-trials in March this year. Of them, 40 were released, as 5 were absconding.

**137 Sikh Prisoners Released**
*BK2109125488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] One hundred and thirty-seven Jodhpur detenues were released from the central jail today. They were among those arrested in Amritsar in 1984 [following the Indian Army operation at the Golden Temple].

The special court set up in the jail for the trial of these people passed the order last night to free them after an application was moved on behalf of the central government.

This followed the government's announcement in New Delhi about their release. One more detainee who was to be released is absconding [as heard].

## Iran

**Majlis Speaker Cites 1975 Accord on Arvand River**
*LD2109122288 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Iran's top military chief said it makes no difference to Iran where the U.N.-mediated peace talks with Iraq would be held.

The acting armed forces commander-in-chief, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to Iraqi objections on the venue which has been set in New York, said if both sides show honesty the [words indistinct] goodwill, he said. [Words indistinct] optimistic about the outcome [words indistinct], Hashemi-Rafsanjani added.

On the dredging of the Arvand River which has been one of Iraq's main demands since the peace talks began last month, he said the issue was being used by Baghdad as an "excuse" to hinder the negotiations.

"Iran itself wants this border river to be dredged (because) the quicker the river is cleared the greater the benefit for both Iran and Iraq."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, saying that the 1975 accord has determined how the river should be dredged and reiterated Iran's position that it was not an issue to argue over at this time. [sentence as received]

"We are firm in our stands," the acting commander-in-chief said. He added: "We will in no way allow the 1975 accord be undermined even at the expense of the resumption of the war."

The Majlis speaker dismissed as "ridiculous" Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's recent statements that Iraq was planning to divert the course of the Arvand River and said Baghdad was resorting to such absurdities because of its grave internal problems or as a military deceit.

"We will give more explanations about the issue whenever we feel the matter is serious," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

"Despite losing 123,000 of our best children, the war has had positive points for Iran," he said, adding "the war has not only boosted the morale of our youths and the whole society but has also helped the country make great scientific progress."

Elsewhere in his interview, the acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief termed the Baghdad regime's chemical massacre of its Kurdish population an "inhuman crime."

He said even if the Islamic Republic had not fought Iraq it would never have approved of such inhuman behaviour towards innocent people.

Addressing the Armed Forces personnel, Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded them and urged them to remain on full alert as long as the peace talks are going on.

## IRNA Details New Ministers' Biographies

*LD2009175988 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Five new faces with diverse backgrounds joined Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's cabinet following a vote of confidence from the Majlis Tuesday.

One is a former guerrilla who fought against the shah, one is former student who took part in the takeover of the American Embassy in Tehran and two others have top degrees from American universities.

'Ali Shamkhani who won an overwhelming vote of approval with 202 in favour and only 10 votes against as the new minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards (IRGC), recently become one of the senior aides of Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and Majlis speaker, picked Shamkhani as his deputy for operations and information at the military command headquarters.

Shamkhani was born in a religious family in Ahvaz, the provincial capital of the Khuzestan Province, in 1955.

Before the revolution he joined the armed struggle against the shah's regime and for a time headed the Islamic Students Council at Jondi Shapur University in Ahvaz. He studied at the agricultural college.

He was one of the founders of the revolutionary committees in Khuzestan after February 1979 and later became the first commander of the IRGC in the province.

After the Iraqi invasion in September 1980 he commanded the Revolutionary Guards in the southern fronts. Two of his brothers, Mohammad and Hamid, have been martyred in combat.

Shamkhani rose to the post of deputy commander of the IRGC and commander of the IRGC's Ground Forces.

The new Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh was one of the students following the line of the imam who took over the American Embassy in Tehran in November 1979. He was then a member of the Central Students Council at Tehran University's Technical College.

Foruzesh was born in 1955 in a middle-class religious family in Dezful, Khuzestan Province, where he frequently took part in religious activities.

In 1980 he joined the Central Council of the Contruction Jihad in Khuzestan and was particularly active in pool logistical resources for the war effort.

In 1982 Prime Minister Musavi made him a member of the Construction Jihad's national council where he was in charge of provincial and war affairs.

Foruzesh replaces Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh who has been transferred to the Ministry of Energy. Namdar-Zangeneh headed the Contruction Jihad Ministry for nearly five years until his resignation a month ago.

Before joining the ministry he was the deputy for cultural affairs at the Islamic Guidance Ministry.

He concentrated his efforts in gathering and publishing important works and documents about the Islamic Revolution, namely the complete speeches and statements of Imam Khomeyni which are being published under the title of "Sahifeh Nur".

Namdar-Zangeneh was born in Bakhtaran, former Kermanshah, in the same province in 1952. He received his masters degree in civil engineering with honours from Tehran University's Technical College in 1971.

During his university years he was involved in religious and political activities and strongly opposed leftist tendencies.

He is currently a member of the Academic Council at the technical and engineering college in Tehran.

'Isa Kalantari, 36, the new agriculture minister has a doctorate in agriculture from Iowa University and a masters degree also in agriculture from the University of Nebraska in America.

He received his bachelors degree from the agricultural college in Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Province.

He returned to Iran a year after his brother, Musa, then minister of roads and transportation, was martyred along with many other officials in a bomb blast at the headquarters of the now dissolved Islamic Republican Party in June 1981.

After returning to Iran in 1982 he became head of the agricultural promotion organization. Kalantari moved to head the seed and sapling research and supply organization and from 1983 to 1985 he was in charge of the Moghan Agro- Industrial company in East Azarbayjan.

From 1985 until his latest appointment he was in charge of the plant improvement and botanical courses at the Teachers Training College.

Mohammad 'Ali Najafi also studied in America's Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received his masters degree in mathematics. He continued his studies for a doctorate degree but decided to return to Iran during the Islamic revolution.

While in America he was in charge of cultural and organizational affairs of the Iranian Muslims Students Association in northeast United States.

After the revolution he became the head of the Sharif Industrial University in Tehran and in 1981-84 was minister of higher education. From 1984 until his new appointment he was the deputy in charge of training at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Corporation (IRIB). He is 37 years old and was born in Tehran.

## DER SPIEGEL Interviews Foreign Minister

*AU1909162588 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 19 Sep 88 pp 166, 168*

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent: "Our People Are Very Patient"; date, place not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Fighting has ceased on the front, but peace negotiations in Geneva between Iran and Iraq are completely deadlocked. Does the danger exist that renewed fighting will break out soon?

Velayati: We hope that the talks will lead to a concrete solution of the conflict. But the result depends on the goodwill of the other side. We, on our part, desire peace.

SPIEGEL: Ayatollah Khomeyni warned the Iranians not to believe that the fight is already over.

Velayati: He wanted to admonish our people to remain vigilant. We are only at the beginning of the peace process. A cease-fire does not necessarily mean an end of the state of war. Imam Khomeyni only said that we have to be prepared for a break of the cease-fire.

SPIEGEL: Does this not also reveal his concern about the war-weariness on the part of the Iranians?

Velayati: Of course, our people do not want a fresh outbreak of hostilities. We want a lasting peace in order to rebuild our country, but we also want a just peace.

SPIEGEL: The deadlock in Geneva has been caused by the century-old controversy over the Shatt al-'Arab border. Iraq wants to clear this waterway—its only access to the Persian Gulf—of shipwrecks in order to make the port of Basra accessible for ships again. Why are you opposed to this?

Velayati: What you call Shatt al-'Arab we call the Arvand River. Iraq is a state that has entered history only after World War I. Therefore, how can the controversy over the Arvand River be several centuries old?

SPIEGEL: Because the Iranians already fought with the Turks over the drawing up of the border, and because for over 1000 years Basra was one of the great Arab centers of sea trade.

Velayati: The Ottomann Empire also waged numerous border wars in southeast Europe. The dispute over Mesopotamia, the country between the Euphrates and Tigris, the territory that we call Iraq today, belongs to the most important chapters of our history. Most of the time at least parts of Mesopotamia belonged to Iran. Near Baghdad you can still see today the ruins of the palaces that were built by the Persian Sassanid Dynasty before the Islamic era. So, if the Iraqis want to open the history book, we are ready to face up to the challenge.

SPIEGEL: The Iraqis refer to their historic right that the entire waterway of the Shatt al-'Arab is subject to their sovereignty, that means that the Iranian border should be drawn along the left bank. Iran, however, bases its claims on the treaty that the shah concluded with Iraq in Algiers in 1975, which places the border in the middle of the waterway. Should this be the issue that may lead to the failure of the peace negotiations?

Velayati: Our position is unshakable. The border is the "valley path," which means the line with the greatest water depth. This has been stipulated in the Algiers accord. Saddam Husayn has personally signed it.

SPIEGEL: Under military pressure, as he pointed out shortly afterwards because the shah supported the rebel Kurds at the time. Saddam Husayn declared the treaty null and void before the Iraqi Parliament a few days before the Gulf war broke out.

Velayati: The treaty is valid, its unilateral termination was not permissible. I spoke about this with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in New York before the cease-fire became effective. He explicitly confirmed that the United Nations acknowledge the validity of the treaty.

SPIEGEL: You may be right in the legal sense. The Baghdad regime, however, believes that it has won the military confrontation with Iran.

Velayati: The Iraqis consider themselves to be in a stronger military position, but this is a deceitful feeling. Eight years ago they also thought that they would be able to win the war in 2 to 3 weeks. Now they are making the same mistake. Our people have not changed; they continue to be determined to defend their national interests. The borderline, whether on land or in the water, is a red line for us. We do not accept compromises and negotiations in this issue.

SPIEGEL: If the Iranian fighting morale is as intact as you claim, why did you suffer so many defeats during the weeks before the entering into force of the cease-fire?

Velayati: The war has its own laws. In such a long conflict, there are bound to be ups and downs. The last battle near Kermanshah was decided in our favor; we drove away the intruders.

SPIEGEL: Maybe the reason why the controversy over the Shatt al-'Arab is carried on with such acrimony is that control over the waterway has become the symbol of who has won the war.

Velayati: The main problem is that Saddam Husayn wants to prove to his people that he has won the war. Why should we pay the price for it? After 8 years he owes his people an explanation why he started this war—one of the longest and most horrible in recent history—in the first place, and why he continued it. If he claims complete sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab as a sign of his victory, he is cherishing a false dream.

SPIEGEL: When your government agreed to the cease-fire, Khomeyni said that this is deadlier than drinking a cup of poison. As a matter of fact, the goals of the war had originally been very far-reaching: the overthrow of the Baghdad Government, punishment of Saddam Husayn, and a change in the balance of power in the Persian Gulf. None of these goals has been achieved.

Velayati: It was certainly hard for us to agree to negotiations with a regime that started a war that has caused so many losses for us. Of course, we hoped that the international community would punish Saddam Husayn. But this does not mean that we are in a desperate military situation. There are difficult moments during every war.

SPIEGEL: An oil industry destroyed by bombs, hundreds of thousands of dead, but no victory—do the Iranian people also not ask their government about the usefulness of the countless victims?

Velayati: Our people are very patient and experienced. Our civilization has a long history. It includes many wars and invasions. Our people know how to cope with such a situation.

SPIEGEL: What is the most important task for Iran after the war: economic reconstruction or reorganization of the Armed Forces?

Velayati: The one cannot be separated from the other. The FRG also started to rebuild its economy after the war and formed a new army shortly afterward. This does not mean that our goal is another war. We only want to ensure that we are able to defend our sovereignty, our revolution, and our national dignity.

SPIEGEL: Your country needs outside help for reconstruction. Do you want to open your country increasingly toward the West, perhaps even normalize relations with the United States?

Velayati: This is a difficult chapter. The United States has fought the Islamic Revolution from the beginning, climaxing in the downing of one of our passenger planes over the Persian Gulf. Evidence has been furnished that the Americans were to blame for the incident, but they did not even apologize. Is it so difficult to apologize for the death of some 300 civilians? And then you expect us to approach the Americans?

SPIEGEL: The fears that Iran has caused in the West, but also among its Arab neighbors, are rooted in the aggressive efforts aimed at exporting the Islamic Revolution beyond Iran's borders. Are you ready to stop them in the future?

Velayati: We will continue to export our revolution, but in cultural terms. The Western countries are doing the same thing. They export their culture, their way of

thinking, and their values with the help of the mass media or universities where foreign students are trained. The West, for example, constantly judges other countries by how strictly they observe human rights...

SPIEGEL: This is the attempt of a cultural dictatorship for you?

Velayati: Do you think that human rights represent an absolute value? Or do they not rather express a certain viewpoint, a certain judgment? In this way, every culture area tries to export its values, not by means of force but by peaceful means. We are doing exactly the same thing with our Islamic Revolution.

### Saudi Hajj Restriction Termed 'Absurdity'

*LD2009194488 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—The number of hajj pilgrims this year once again proved the absurdity of Saudi claims on the necessity of reducing the number of pilgrims because of repairs underway at the holy shrines.

According to official statistics released by the Saudi regime the number of pilgrims this years was only 164,000 less than the previous year or in other words minus the 154,000 Iranian contingent which annually perform hajj. It is clear Saudi's restrictions only included Iranian pilgrims.

The regime ruling Hijaz had started a false propaganda campaign several months before this year's hajj claiming that the holy shrines needed repairs and, therefore the number of foreign pilgrims should be reduced.

But statistics reveal that 762,000 foreign pilgrims participated in this year's hajj while the number was 926,000 last year. The difference only shows the absence of the Iranian pilgrims.

### USSR's Korolev Continues Meetings With Leaders

#### Meets With Musavi

*LD2109083788 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 21 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Veniamin Korolev told Premier Hoseyn Musavi Tuesday [20 September] that Moscow was ready to cooperate with Iran in infrastructural industries particularly in the field of energy.

He also expressed hopes that the holding of the forthcoming 15th joint economic commission (in Moscow) will give a new impetus to mutual relations.

Musavi told the Soviet official that in the light of the existing potentials the present volume of bilateral trade was negligible. In order to create a strong foundation for bilateral cooperation, he said steps should be taken for launching several infrastructural joint projects.

Premier Musavi also expressed the hope that in the post-war period bilateral relations will be further expanded and that by following up issues of mutual concern at high decision-making levels improvement is made in bilateral relations.

#### Discusses Cooperation

*LD2009172988 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Tehran-Moscow cooperation in water and electricity was discussed in a meeting between visiting Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Veniamin Korolev and Deputy Energy Minister for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Reza 'Adeli here Monday.

One of the subjects raised was installing of water gauges on the banks of Iran-Soviet border rivers.

It was decided that Moscow submit an official proposal for reconstruction of the Ramin power station of Ahvaz and expansion of Shahid Montazeri power station in Esfahan for evaluation, prior to the holding of the 11th session of the joint economic and technical commission.

#### Meets With Iravani

*LD2009211588 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Veniamin Korolev met Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani here Tuesday.

In the meeting, Iravani said that determination of terms of payment for goods exchanged within the framework of Iran-Soviet technical and economic cooperation could have a major role in expansion of mutual ties.

He expressed hope that the forthcoming 11th meeting of Iran-Soviet economic commission would help the two sides to finalize an earlier agreement concerning construction of Qiz Qalasi and Khoda-Afarin dams over the border river Aras.

The 11th meeting of Iran-Soviet Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperations will be held in Moscow within a few months.

Announcing his country's eagerness to expand its ties with the Islamic Republic Korolev expressed hope that future talks and visits between the two sides' delegations would result in the expansion of mutual ties.

## SAIRI Chairman on Iraq's 'Procrastinations'

*LD2009164588 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 20 Sep 88*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—A one-day political and military seminar of commanders of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) was opened here by SAIRI chairman Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim today.

Speaking at the seminar Hakim referred to Iraqi regime's procrastinations at the Geneva peace talks, and said they were aimed at hindering the main goal which is determining the war aggressor.

SAIRI will not halt its operations to liberate Iraq and that it will not wait for the East or West to topple Saddam, Hakim warned.

He said Islam is in serious jeopardy in Iraq where hundreds of mosques have been closed down by the Iraqi regime and prayer leaders and scholars have either been executed or under torture in dungeons.

## KEYHAN Rejects Consumer-Oriented Economy

*PM0909141988 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Aug 88 p 14*

[Editorial by 'A. Hoseyn-Panah: "Plenty of Everything or an Open Economy"]

[Text] One of the presumptions circulating with regard to reconstruction hints at normal economic conditions and an economy of "plenty." The local capitalist circles are behind this counterrevolutionary idea. They believe that the limitations on consumers, distribution, imports, and local production depended on the war-time conditions prevailing during the past 8 years. Now they say all this must be removed and the government's role in the economy must be a traditional, classic economy as in other Middle Eastern or underdeveloped nations. They believe that rationing and the distribution of goods by the government should be abolished and the economy should return to the days of the kings or, at the very least, back to 1983 conditions.

A less provocative assumption is that the Iranian people have suffered through 10 years of revolutionary and 8 years of war-time conditions. Each time they demanded goods, they were given the reply that the country was at war or undergoing a revolution. Now they say these conditions no longer exist; explanations are not enough for the people. Therefore, we must initiate an age of plenty. In other words, we must repay the people for 8 years of hardship with material comforts.

Obviously, this way of thinking deviates from the mainstream ideology of reconstruction and results from an incorrect knowledge of Iran's economy and its limitations. This assumption is also rejected in terms of revolutionary ideals and, as far as the experts are concerned, has no bearing on the country's limitations. Dissecting some of the nation' economy makes this point clearer.

In this analysis, we take as our model the years 1981-1983. Rationing was in force during those years and one cannot conceive of them as being plentiful. In 1983, our currency income was $21.8 billion and our spending was $24.15 billion, some $22.3 billion of this going toward the purchase of necessities. During 1983, more than $3.7 billion was spent on necessities such as rationed foodstuffs and so on. If we add to this the indirect spending on such items as fodder or agricultural machinery, the sum is increased to $4.5 billion.

Another aspect to consider in this process is the increase in population from 43 million in 1983 to 52 million in 1988. In this case, we would need $5.4 billion to provide the necessities. No more than $2 billion has been put aside for necessities in 1988. In other words, to meet conditions that prevailed in 1983, we have to add another $3.4 billion for purchasing goods.

Our currency earnings at the moment are about 47 percent of what they were in 1983. It is not possible for us to provide even 50 percent of $3.4 billion. The government has only two options if it is to eliminate rationing. First, it must inject some $2.5 or $3 billion a year to import goods so that the people will have plenty in the shops. The only way to do this is to borrow funds from external sources. The second choice is that the government remove itself from the fair distribution of goods, that it place goods on the market in accordance with demand and supply. This would increase many times the prices of essential items. The present ceiling on goods is about 45 percent of the local demand, which means that half the people with high income would buy goods at a high price and the rest of the people would not be able to buy anything. The political and social implications of such a move are obvious, and the government would never undertake such action.

The government has put aside some $2 billion for the purchase of essential items and raw materials needed for local production. To meet 1983 conditions, the government must double its currency earnings. If we consider the increase in population and the decrease in the value of the dollar, we see that to obtain the conditions we discussed, we would need about $25 billion a year. Those who speak in such an irresponsible manner about the people's needs for a "plentiful" market and speak of the necessity of such a thing either do not understand the conditions of the country or else are pursuing other aims.

One aspect that must be discussed here is the difference between an "open" economy and one of "plenty." The government must strive toward an open economy if it means expanding the local capacity for production and more employment. Such an economy is both desirable

and within Iran's reach. The direction of such an economy is exactly opposite to that of "plenty." It has a revolutionary context. This openness requires a direct and stern role by the government over the economic policy, correction of the distribution system, financial policies, and a change in the economy and production. The government not only will have to maintain its present role in the system of distribution, but it will have to take over the distribution of more goods needed by the people.

Private sector activities must be limited. The damaging and terrorist acts of the private sector during the 8 years of war and the inflationary results of capitalist control over some goods have placed a black mark against this sector and has defamed nationalist capitalism more than ever. On the other hand, the government's positive role in rationing proved how effective the role of government can be in underdeveloped economies. The government must pursue its past policies with a warm heart and must correct the flaws.

The government must direct all hard currency, however limited, toward the economic infrastructure, creating jobs and expanding technological research. Capitalist circles are engaged in a wicked game, trying to incite the people's desire for goods and to provoke a policy of "plenty" among the officials. Imperialist circles as well as counterrevolutionaries are trying to push the country into accepting foreign investment. Foreign investment would like to enter this country by way of consumer goods, because the return on this is good and secure. Of course, one must not fear that the country will move toward a "plentiful" economy; this is not possible. The idea and the temptation, even for one month, is so deadly that it will make us all losers.

## KEYHAN Affirms Necessity for National Unity

*PM0609161388 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 88 p 2*

[Editorial by Mehdi Nasiri: "National Cohesion, a Vital Necessity for the Revolution"]

[Excerpts] It is no secret to those who are aware of the political situation that the present circumstances are some of the most sensitive that the revolution has encountered. These situations are so vital and sensitive that the conditions of the early years of the revolution and the war pale by comparison.

By accepting Resolution No 598, the revolution put behind it a huge obstacle, but at the same time new conditions that accompany particularly dangerous and vulnerable situations have arisen.

On the one hand, we are faced with diplomatic and economic attacks from an enemy who for a decade faced the most intense humiliations at the hands of our revolution. On the other, the conditions are ripe for the reemergence of the negative attitudes of those within the country who had been beaten and isolated by the people and the true revolutionary movement.

There is an air of mystery surrounding some events, some of which can be clarified by officials and the rest of which must remain hidden and secret in accordance with the tenor of the times in the country's and the revolution's history. These things must be spared the "whys and buts," although this in itself is a good thing. It is therefore natural that in such an atmosphere there will be much movement toward opportunistic gains, as well as struggle against the true path of the revolution. This is the reality that we now face. Disruption to the established cohesion between the existing forces of the revolution and the regime is the trend which accompanies contradictions and uncertainties and is now perceived as the main weapon to be used against the revolution.

As we mentioned before, the present conditions in the country have complicated matters and have, to a large extent, tied the hands of those top-level officials in dealing with this opportunistic trend—which is quite sophisticated—in a suitable and simple manner.

What has emerged as a vital element here is the danger of the spread of differences and misunderstandings among the united forces of the revolution and the regime. This is the aim that is being pursued by hidden hands. Spreading rumors, presenting false pictures of the truth, breaking the prestige of key elements who have not compromised by placing a "pro-Western" labels on them, and insisting that the acceptance of Resolution No 598 was a sign of compromise on the part of our leaders are among the weapons in the hands of these mysterious people. [passage omitted]

We have no intention of saying that the top officials of the country are totaly immune to criticism, and we do not intend to invite our readers to indulge in hero-worship. The leaders themselves do not claim such immunity. However, the point is that there are many rumors that are being spread systematically and according to a set plan to all corners of the country against the best figures of the revolution. These follow a well-defined and designed plan. It is a shame that the loyal forces whose dedication to the revolution is undeniable are also sullying the image of the revolution's leaders without paying any attention to the nature of their actions or their consequences.

What simple mind does not know that the result of these actions is the downfall of those columns that bear the heaviest burdens of the country and the revolution on their shoulders? Everyone knows that the issue does not end here and that these forces will not end their onslaught until they have occupied all the bunkers of the revolution, which house the entire leadership of the revolution and their ideals. [passage omitted]

No one should think that officials should not be criticized or warned. Sometimes they need to have a shock administered by the pen or by the tongue. The real fear is that in order to safeguard the basis of the revolution, we might use that excuse to undermine all those elements that have deep roots and experience. There will come a time when we will then realize that we have lost everything and then our hands will be tied.

Yes, we must beware the dangers of the West at all times in terms of financial, political, and cultural issues. We must not offer our hands in friendship to the East or West in such a way that the price we pay is the undermining of the revolution. Nor must we forget that this slogan may be used by those elements that have no aim other than to smash the basis of this revolution and its leadership, elements whose hearts will never bleed for the revolution's principles.

In any case, the necessity of cohesion and unity, under these special circumstances, does not need special reasoning. Naturally, everyone should make efforts in the country's construction in economic, military, and cultural areas. Our enemies have of course become more aware and serious. It is not surprising that after the meeting between Reagan and Gobachev suddenly all the centers of crisis throughout the world are calming down and all differences are being resolved. Is it not true that the joint aim is the destruction of the Islamic Republic's regime? If that is the case, how far have we come along the path of resolving our differences on the road to confronting this extensive global plot?

## Tudeh Party Secretary General Interviewed

*LD1509105288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 12 Sep 88*

[Interview with 'Ali Khavari, secretary general of the Tudeh Party, by unidentified correspondent, date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Comrade Khavari, how do you assess the reasons for and factors behind the Islamic Republic of Iran regime's acceptance of Resolution No 598 and the establishment of a cease-fire?

[Khavari] It must be said that the main reason behind the regime's enforced acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 and a cease-fire in the war with Iraq was the complete failure of the policy of continuing the war and the regime's political amd military deadlock. That deadlock was such that the Islamic Republic was incapable of continuing the war, and its existence, in all its dimensions, was questioned. That fact itself, too, arose from the people's profound hatred of war, from the fact that the Armed Forces refrained from fighting, from financial and economic bankruptcy and, in brief, from the intensification of the multifaceted crisis in the society and within the government.

Thus the regime viewed the continuation of the war as linked with its own downfall. The regime's leaders admit this under the guise of safeguarding the system's interests. I must immediately add, of course, that the struggle of revolutionary and progressive forces and the persistent efforts of peace-loving circles and organizations and the pressure of world public opinion played an important role in the Islamic Republic's acceptance of Resolution No 598.

The reasons for and the bases of the regime's paralysis on the fronts and of the war machine's paralysis behind the fronts were evident a long time ago. After the publication of the UN Security Council resolution and the regime's two-faced and, in fact, opposition attitude toward the resolution, the Islamic Republic was confronted with a decisive deadlock regarding the continuation of the war. The people's hatred of and exhaustion from war, their lack of conviction in the expansionist aims of the regime's leaders, and the hollow slogans of conquering Jerusalem by way of Karbala' gradually took on the form of an embargo of the fronts.

That dissatisfaction also penetrated the body of the Armed Forces and the government's internal differences gained new heights. The existing circumstances gave Iraq the opportunity to remove Shalamcheh, the Majnun Islands, Halabjah, and the regime's other military positions from its clutches and to even launch new attacks into our homeland.

All these factors together forced those responsible for the country's military and political affairs and forced Khomeyni and his allies to retreat in the face of the people's will.

[Question] What, in your opinion, are the results and consequences of acceptance of the resolution and the establishment of the cease-fire in our homeland?

[Khavari] The acceptance of the resolution and the establishment of a cease-fire were the people's greatest victory. Despite the presence of limitless terror and suppression, they were able, together and in various ways, to (?show) their profound dissatisfaction with the war and with the warmongers. In that way, experience showed once again that with a united struggle, the people's will can prevail. No factor other than the turning away of the compatriots from the self-interested system which carries the serious threat of the regime's destruction could have brought either Khomeyni or the power-holders of the real policy-making level to the negotiating table. Nor could anything else have forced the real manager of that great historic tragedy to take a drink more bitter than poison.

Despite its declamations, the regime surrendered. The adventurist policy of exporting revolution was bound to be defeated in that manner. For the Islamic Republic this was not only a shameful military and political defeat, but also an ideological defeat and a multifaceted spiritual

collapse. With the continuation of the war, the regime committed the greatest betrayal of our people's national interests. Not only will the physical and material losses—which until today, in the confusion and heat of the war and deceitful war propaganda, was like a fresh wound—turn into a throbbing pain in keeping with its tragic dimensions, but also the entire society will find itself confronted with this ruinous question for the regime: Since the liberation of Khorramshahr until now, for whom, and why? That is the question, which more than any sharp weapon, will shake the regime's bases of cruelty, despotism, inhumanity, and brutality.

Today, that policy and those criminals, who caused the deaths of over 1 million people, $500 billion of damage and millions of disabled and homeless people on the Iraqi and Iranian side, will be put on trial by the people.

The acceptance of the resolution and the commencement of the cease-fire was also a criterion for assessing the veracity and truth of the various political forces' position with respect to the war and the extent of their loyalty to our homeland's national and popular interests. From the start of the war until now, Iran's Tudeh Party has not had and does not have any aim other than to fulfill those interests and observe the Iraqi people's right to choose their own destiny. At the time of the country's best political and military circumstances, that is, at the time of the golden opportunity for repulsing the enemy's aggression in 1981-82, we raised the issue of the need to end the war as soon as possible.

The regime, however, finding itself in a complete deadlock and under conditions of throwing to the wind many of our homeland's interests, surrendered to the realities. We recognized the attainment of peace and the ending of the war to be of such importance, and at the top of all our human and political duties, that we never artificially linked it with the destiny of the regime or with its existence or nonexistence. What was and is of vital importance for us at this stage was and is to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers, peasants, and deprived people who are the real victims of the war.

We do not hide the fact that we knew that the continuation of the war would in any case bring the regime's life to an end. However, we could not accept the policy that the fire of the war should blaze to such an extent and should continue to such an extent that the regime's roots would burn within it, because not only the roots of the regime, but also the existence of our homeland's people would have burned in that fire. It is the people who, with their various means of struggle, will decide the fate of the regime. For that reason, we consistently pursued the policy of ending the war of brother against brother by means of political negotiation, to the extent that we raised the issue of the formation of an extensive liberation and peace front.

Realities proved the justice of the policy of Iran's Tudeh Party. We also warned those antiregime fighters, who saw their political existence as being dependent on calculated bargaining over the war of brother against brother, that the highest interest of the people lies in ending the war as soon as possible. Realities confirmed the accuracy of our position. We knew and persistently said that the war will not yield a military victory for either side. They accused us of betraying our country and of following the policy of others. We remain without disgrace now as ever. Let the people place their belief not in words but in action.

[Question] In your opinion, now that peace is within sight, is it possible to think of the struggle for peace as being over?

[Khavari] By no means. The cease-fire on the fronts will not of itself end the effects of the region's warmongering or the other dimensions of its aggressive and adventurist policy. There is a long way to go before a lasting peace. For that reason, we must not refrain for one moment from the struggle for peace. The cease-fire must become irrevocable and the political negotiations must lead to a lasting and all-embracing peace. The evil effects and consequences of the war must be erased from all our homeland's economic, social, cultural, and military affairs. War preparations and the mobilization of human forces for the fronts must come to an end. War expenditure and the war economy must stop.

Military production lines and factories must return to normal. Laborers, peasants, workers, school and university students must return to their work and study. Work must be found for the unemployed and those who lost their jobs because of the war. The willful pursuit of people's children who have left the fronts must be immediately suspended. In brief, the dawn of peace must cast its light across our homeland's bloodied horizon. For the sake of all these just and popular demands, the struggle for peace must be continued with full strength.

[Question] In you opinion, what is the reason behind the intensification of repression and the new wave of killing and blood shed by the regime, especially the mass execution of political prisoners?

[Khavari] The reasons behind this brutal bloodshed must be sought in the regime's fear of the people's relentless fury. The fact that the regime was forced to accept the cease-fire is only the first step of the people's victories. Henceforth, social struggle will continue in a broader arena and with greater intensity. The Islamic Republic's leaders are terrified of the consequence of that struggle. That is why they have turned to the intensification of terror and repression and to the killing of the standard-bearers of the people's fury in the prisons. The wave of execution of the people's dear ones and their burial in mass graves is a sign of the regime's increasing weakness and desperation.

For that reason, the struggle for liberation must be extended more than ever. Protecting the lives of political prisoners and struggling for their liberation from the grip of the executioners must be undertaken by ever more solid ranks. Liberation and lasting peace, linked together, are the main aim of the people's struggle and of all our homeland's revolutionary and democratic forces. There is no doubt that the extension of repression will not be able to save the regime from the profound crisis in which it is caught. The despotic and inhuman regime of the rule of the supreme jurisconsult is coming closer to its downfall.

[Question] How do you assess the prospect of future developments in Iran?

[Khavari] What is clear is that our country's people, with the experience which they have gained during the years of the rule of the Islamic Republic's regime, no longer wish to live as before. They undertook one of the world's most splendid revolutions in order to bring about a life worthy of free-thinking people and just social relations. The result of the revolution and the deviation of the rulers from the revolution's slogans brought about the exact opposite of their wishes. The power Of understanding and the experience of the great masses of our country's people during recent years is a strong lever which will determine the movements of uprising and (?development) in our homeland's political and social currents.

Now, the role of leftist, progressive, and democratic forces in determining the path of our country's social movements, especially in the current critical conditions, is thrown into sharp relief. Deviation, separatism, self-centeredness, believing truth to be one's private prerogative, willfully rejecting and discarding the force which is striding toward freedom, peace, and social justice is an irrepsonsible action and just that which the regime needs in order to maintain its medieval despotism.

The people's dissatisfaction and fury have reached their limits, but that dissatisfaction and fury will turn into a constructive and saving force for our homeland only when it is led and guided in the form of a broad and extensive front with clear slogans and popular democratic demands. Our homeland's future depends on that great (?elixir), that is, the combative unity of those forces. Our nation bears great events in its womb. Once again the people will have the last word and there is no doubt that they will destroy the medieval despotism.

## Tudeh Party Issues Statement on Peace

*LD1709130088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Sep 88*

[Excerpts] Dear listeners! Eager and selfless Tudeh comrades! The political delegation of Iran's Tudeh Party Central Committee has issued a statement about recent developments in our homeland. We now draw your attention to it. Party cells and activists within the country are dutybound to record and distribute this statement.

Statement by the political delegation of Iran's Tudeh Party Central Committee about the cease-fire, related matters, and our tasks: A cease-fire has been established between Iran and Iraq. At last, after 8 years of brother fighting brother, the fire of war has subsided. (?In other words), the largely (?isolated) struggle of the masses of the people behind the fronts and its transmission to the fronts turned into such a determining factor that the regime was no longer capable of resisting it.

Continuation of the war was not only the wish of Khomeyni and his allies, but of U.S. imperialism, too. Although, under the pressure of world public opinion, U.S. imperialism responded positively in words to the demands of peace-keeping countries, in truth it wanted the war to continue in order to weaken as much as possible both sides in order to create suitable conditions for the revival of its political, economic, and military dominance in the strategic region of the Persian Gulf.

In reality, what the internal reactionaries and imperialism did not take into account was the great power of the masses which brought even a self-willed person like Khomeyni to his knees. That is the first and most important lesson which the masses have thus far taught the Islamic Republic's regime. They forced it to accept Resolution No 598. At the same time, that will not be the last lesson. If the struggle of the masses is transformed from an (?isolated) form to an organized one, the regime will be forced to retreat further and this will eventually lead to its downfall.

Therefore, the vital issue of the movement is the organization of the struggle against the existing system or (?consciousness). There is no doubt about the fact that, in the struggle against the war, the demand of the majority of the people in every corner of the country took the form of isolated demonstrations. Historical experience testifies that in most nationalist liberation movements in our country (?the question of consciousness) in its scientific form did not exist and separate sparks gradually turned into such a blazing fire that they destroyed the castles of oppression along with their residents.

The Iranian leadership is submitting to a cease-fire and going to the negotiating table under circumstances in which it sees its existence endangered. The policy of war, war until victory, which Khomeyni insisted on more than any of his allies, has been defeated. The increasing loss of life tore apart the foundation of the country's socioeconomic affairs and inflicted a deep crisis on society. The contradictions which led to the revolution

did not only remain unresolved as a result of the regime's betrayal, they were even intensified, partly because of the war. All of this points to the beginning of the regime's collapse.

We believe that even after the establishment of peace, the regime will not be able to heal the wounds inflicted during 8 years of war. The creation of jobs for 5 million unemployed people, the reconstruction of cities and villages and destroyed industrial institutions, the return of about 3 million war refugees to their homes, the provision of employment for hundreds of thousands of mobilization forces released from the Armed Forces, the revival of a bankrupt economy, and so on, requires profound developments within society. Those developments will not be possible except within a democratic framework by allowing the people to participate in creating their own destiny. However, because of its reactionary nature, the Khomeyni regime is afraid of the masses.

Now, with the start of peace talks, this is the question for society: Can we hope for the possibility of lasting peace? It seems from the remarks of the leaders of the regimes of both Iran and Iraq, and their (?insistence) on the maintenance and reinforcement of their armed forces on the borders, that one cannot be very optimistic about the future. Human life has no value for either regime. For that reason, the struggle for peace must continue relentlessly. Experience has shown that lasting peace can only be attained through struggle.

On the other hand, we must take into account the fact that from now on imperialism, primarily U.S. imperialism, will try to take advantage of the weakness of both Iran and Iraq, particularly in the economic field. It will try not only to drag the two countries into dependence in various arenas, but also to involve the countries of the region, including our country, in an arms race.

At the same time, history shows that without democratic freedoms, lasting peace is not possible. The two things are inextricably intertwined and it is not possible to separate one from the other, particularly if one remembers that in our country the freedom-destroying system of the rule of the jurisconsult is (?paramount). It is not without reason that the Khomeyni regime, in order to impose its own views on the masses, does not, as before, refrain from committing any crime. The intensification of terror and repression, which has now begun with the mass execution of political prisoners, will soon engulf the those who hold different opinions from the Islamic Republic's regime.

Those forces who, within the framework of the ruling system, have differences of opinion on socioeconomic issues with the ruling reactionary clergymen, who defend the interests of large capitalists and large landowners, and who in some way do not agree with the rule of the jurisconsult, should not forget for one moment that it may be the turn of others today but their turn will come tomorrow. Khomeyni's regime does not have the capacity to tolerate any opposing view or opinion, because it considers the presence of people who think differently to be a danger for the existence of the ruling system. Therefore, relentless struggle for the sake of democratic freedoms as one of the forms of class struggle is important on the agenda. [passage omitted]

The Tudeh party of Iran, after analyzing the strength of class forces in society, has correctly reached the conclusion that none of the progressive and democratic parties and organizations alone can present an alternative to the existing inhuman regime. The belief in such a hollow idea by any political party or organization means alienation from Iranian society. A united front is the only capable and effective force.

Our nation is going through a sensitive and momentous time. Those who are interested in the fate of Iran and of Iranians cannot and do not have the right to disregard this historical moment. We are seeing the beginning of the regime's collapse. The creation of the required awareness will hasten that process. The masses are waiting for a democratic alternative and, in our opinion, it will be possible to give a positive response to that demand through unity.

The resolution issued by the Tudeh Party Central Committee Plenum of December 1987 stressed that the next revolution must have the participation of the masses. That is a correct view because, without increasing the (?strength) of the active forces of the revolution, victory under the present circumstances in the country cannot be guaranteed. [passage omitted]

The Central Committee Plenum studied the difficult issue of broad alliances and stressed the need for the establishment of an extensive front on the basis of the two axes of freedom and peace. It is clear that progressive and democratic parties and organizations will only be able to smooth the path toward the attainment of their strategic programs and aims in a society which benefits from freedom and peace. The accuracy and justice of that view is obvious. What has been said by our party is based on the specific demand of the absolute majority of the country's people, a demand which meets the interests of the various classes and social groups in our society.

The political delegation of the Central Committee of Iran's Tudeh Party asks all cells and party units inside and outside the country to struggle with all their might toward the realization of that article of the plenum's resolution. That party slogan must be taken among the masses and its articles must be discussed with the supporters of other organizations and parties. It must, of course, be said that despite the difficult conditions of terror and repression the party's selfless and supporters are trying to turn the slogan of freedom and peace into

the axis around which society's forces can gather. It is the duty of the party's supporters outside the country not to refrain from any effort to assist their fellow strugglers inside the country.

We are struggling in very complicated and twisted circumstances. The inhuman Khomeyni regime has concentrated all of its strength for our suppression. Under such circumstances, the need to observe the rules of secrecy and also for iron discipline, both on the part of members and party cells and also on the part of comrades who are struggling individually, is greater than ever. The method of overt and covert activity must be expertly used. In the current sensitive and complicated time, it is also the duty of all party members and supporters to consistently implement the measures approved by the December 1987 Central Committee Plenum of Iran's Tudeh Party.

[Signed] The Political Delegation of the Central Committee of Iran's Tudeh Party, Mordad 1367 [22 July-23 August 1988]